



LOOK ON THE FIELDS

ITEMS FOR PRAYER AND PRAISE

With Daily Scripture Readings

1ST

Acts 11:1-18

ENGLAND Pop. 56 Mil. Cheshire

What a faithful God we have! We are often reminded of that wonderful verse that we have gone to often over the years 'Faithful is He who calleth you, who also will do it (1 Thess 5:24)'. We have seen this demonstrated again over the last year. The next verse says 'Brethren, pray for us' and we continue to value your prayers.

Reasons for Praise

- Praise God for His faithfulness.
- Praise God for the 23 people who we employ. Most come from difficult backgrounds of unemployment and ex-offending.
- Praise God for the 25 or more volunteers that help at the charity Renewal North West. Many of these folks are not believers and so are contacted with the gospel in different ways.
- Praise God for the privilege of preaching God's Word each morning to many of the staff and some volunteers.
- Praise God for those who we believe have trusted the Lord and are growing in Him.
- Praise God for 3 that were baptised in 2021 after being taught.
- Praise God for help given in almost completing the café and flat accommodation project. God's timing is perfect in sending just the right help at the right time.
- Praise God for the opportunities that our shop staff get to witness to customers.
- Praise God for the many donations of furniture, Bric-a-Brac, clothing, appliances and computers that we receive each day.
- Praise God for the interest that the local Mayor has shown in the work that we do. He is a believer and has visited the shop.
- Praise God for the addition of a couple of families to the assembly and the baptism of a young man earlier this year.

C. 2002 29/1/22 WESLEY & ALISON DOWNS

2ND

Acts 11:19-30

ENGLAND Pop. 56 Mil. Cheshire

Requests for Prayer

- Please pray for the salvation of those who regularly hear the gospel: Sarah, Vicky (x2), Carol, Marie, Jan, Janet, Elaine, Dave (x3), Howard, Andy, Rob & Steve (x2).
- Please pray that we may be given wisdom in the decisions that we have to make in running the charity Renewal North West.
- Please pray for S, a lad who was saved in prison but due to his offending is facing deportation. He has shown to be faithful and diligent in his witness, and his kindness is noticed by many.
- Please pray between 9 and 9:30am when we have our Bible time. We preach the gospel and teach God's word and look to the Lord for His blessing.

- Please pray that we will be kept safe and accident free.
- Please pray for the start of the new café which we are calling Refresh. We are hoping for many opportunities to witness for Christ.
- Please pray that the literature and Bibles given out will bear fruit in the salvation of souls in the town.
- Please pray that Christ will be at the centre of all we do and that His glory will always be our aim.
- Please pray that the assembly will continue to grow and that outreach to our neighbours will bear fruit.

C. 2002 29/1/22 WESLEY & ALISON DOWNS

3RD

Acts 12

UKRAINE Pop. 44 Mil. UK 4 Lviv

(Written a few weeks before Ukraine was invaded by Russia on 24 February. We prayerfully remember our dear brothers and sisters in Christ who are living in Ukraine at this time of conflict)

We would value earnest prayer from all the believers as the threat of war looms over the country of Ukraine. The news portrays a very worrying situation, however let us remember that Russia is already occupying part of the East of Ukraine for the last 8 years. We turn our hearts upwards and heavenward and remember "God is still on the Throne" and none of His purposes will be thwarted! Our prayer is that the believers throughout the country will be preserved and the Gospel of God will not be hindered.

C. 2010 1/2/22 EDMUND & AGNES JOHNSTON

4TH

Acts 13:1-25

UKRAINE Pop. 44 Mil. UK 4 Lutsk

(Many of you may have seen these communications from the Sloans. The situation is developing so rapidly that the information will be superseded quickly. We are glad that we and they can cast our anxious care upon Him – because he lovingly cares for us 1 Peter 5:7)

(Email from Timothy and Rhoda on 23/2/22 – the day before Ukraine was invaded)

This is quite possibly our last formal communication for some time. War is imminent and the consequences dreadful. A state of emergency has been declared and this will be followed by martial law. A major cyber-attack is happening just now as we write, which has affected Ukrainian banks as well as government websites. Rhoda and I are not leaving – How can we? As an elder in the assembly, my responsibility is to shepherd at all times. It would be a terrible testimony to get up and leave the Lutsk believers. We have been preparing for this day. We have bought in generators, fuel, food etc as we would like to turn the Gospel Hall into a place of shelter to accommodate and feed the assembly believers who will face many a hardship. God is about to give us an opportunity to show our Christian faith practically and reach out into our community with the Gospel.

Rhoda and I will move out of our apartment as we are close to the Lutsk military airfield – and on the 14th floor of our apartment block, we have the central headquarters of the SBO – the Ukrainian secret police!

As we close, the military jets can be heard overhead and we covet your prayers! We are not any braver than you – but confident we are where God would expect us to be.

Social Media updates

24/2 : Six large bombs went off this morning in Lutsk just as I was going to the Gospel Hall at 06:50. I rushed back to the apartment and got Rhoda. We are safe and will open the Hall for all who need us. Please pray.

25/2 : Last night was eerily quiet. We have been at the Hall all day. Please pray for the dear Ukrainians in Kiev. They are under huge bombardment. Just dreadful. We have heard that our area could be attacked from Belarus soon. We are trusting the Lord every minute. Thank you for praying.

C. 1993

TIMOTHY & RHODA SLOAN

A Tribute to Mr Jim Allen
by *Walter Boyd*

On November 30th, our esteemed brother Jim Allen went to be with the Saviour he loved and had served diligently for over 50 years.

He was saved as a young man of 17 years while attending meetings connected to the Bleary Gospel Hall, outside Lurgan, County Armagh, where he was later baptised and received into fellowship. From an early age Jim was studious and graduated with a degree from Queen's University, Belfast and took up teaching in Ballymena Academy. At 27 years of age, he left Northern Ireland to take up a position in education in Malaysia; initially as a Headmaster and later as Principal of a specialist Teacher Training Institute. He had been engaged to Betty Foster prior to sailing for Malaysia and she followed him in 1956 for their marriage in Ipoh, Malaysia. Even though busily employed in a senior position in teaching, he soon engaged in gospel preaching and teaching the Word of God. He returned to Northern Ireland with his wife and family in 1964, where he took up a post as Vice Principal of Larne Grammar School and was in fellowship in the assembly at Cloughfern. However, his heart was still in Malaysia and in 1968 he was commended to Malaysia as a missionary and moved back there with Betty and the family in early 1969. The educational needs of the family meant a move back to Northern Ireland in 1973, and from then Jim was based in Northern Ireland. His gift in gospel preaching and teaching gave him acceptance throughout the United Kingdom and further afield. He regularly visited Malaysia on his own and was known in many countries as an earnest gospel preacher and careful expositor of Scripture. His preaching took him to many countries throughout the world. Over those years his ministry was fruitful and resulted in the salvation of many souls. He was equally at home in a small rural assembly as in a large annual Bible Reading or conference. Jim was known for his modesty and unassuming nature, which belied a scholar's mind and student's pen. His contributions in Bible Readings were always considered and articulate as he discussed the intricate details of a passage with his knowledge of the underlying text. Even though studious, his preaching was far from tedious and heavy; he had a ready mind and faculty in expression that made his preaching easy listening.

Jim knew what grief was, as over the years, from the loss of child at birth in 1957 in Malaysia to the loss of his beloved wife Betty who passed away after a short illness in 1996. In 2005 Jim felt keenly the loss of a granddaughter who was less than a year old. He experienced the loss of his two brothers, but was specially affected by the loss of his youngest son Stephen in 2011 at only 41 years of age. He then lost his son-in-law David Caulfield in 2019. In 2006 Jim married Hilary and continued to preach and teach. Hilary's support and care for Jim as his health failed would prove invaluable.

Jim's contributions to the commentary series, *What the Bible Teaches* by John Ritchie Ltd, are among the best helps available on First Timothy and the book of Revelation. In August 2012 Jim met with a number of brethren to discuss the possibility of publishing a commentary on the prophecy of Daniel, and as a result Scripture Teaching Library was formed. He played an active part in the committee of Scripture Teaching Library, and saw his exercise for a commentary on Daniel fulfilled in what has been recognised as one of the best commentaries available on that prophecy — *Daniel Reconsidered*. He later produced a second commentary on Revelation — *Revelation Revisited*. He also published a number of smaller papers and articles in magazines.

In recent years Jim became increasingly restricted due to Parkinson's disease and felt keenly the increasing weakness that prevented him

from platform preaching. For a while he was able to preach while sitting, but eventually that, too, became impossible. When his physical limitations became a greater hindrance to his movement, Hilary and he moved to the assembly Glengormley in 2018, where access to the hall was easier. His help there was greatly appreciated.

On Friday 3rd December 2021, after a private funeral service due to Covid-19 restrictions in Glengormley Gospel Hall, Jim's remains were laid to rest. Ivan Gordon paid a tribute on behalf of the assembly; Jim's son Drew paid a family tribute, and Walter Boyd brought a message of comfort from the Scriptures. The body was interred in Carrickfergus where sons Drew and Graeme read the Scriptures and prayed.

Jim Allen will be remembered not only as a Christian gentleman, but also as a gentle man. The dark valleys of grief through which he had travelled produced a ministry of compassion and care for saints in trial. His ability as a preacher of the gospel and teacher of the Word of God, coupled with his quiet and humble demeanour have combined to create special memories for those who knew him. In every way he fulfilled the requirements of 2 Tim. 2:15, as 'a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.'

An appreciation of Mr Jim Allen
On behalf of the Glengormley Assembly, N Ireland

For many years our dear brother Jim has been much appreciated, near and far as an able and respected expositor of the Word of God. The earlier part of this article will give much of the detail of his faithfulness and service.

This short appreciation is on behalf of the assembly at Glengormley. Jim and his wife Hilary came into fellowship here on 14th January 2018. While frail and limited by Parkinson's disease our brother was a tremendous help and encouragement to us collectively and personally. We enjoyed his help in the Bible readings. We loved to hear him in ministry, and it was always a thrill to hear him pray or give thanks. On one occasion we were very privileged to have him tell of his call to the work of the Lord. Sadly, he was never well enough physically to do a follow up on his years of service. He really wanted to do this but while the spirit was willing, the flesh was weak. Amazingly, during those last years of physical weakness, Jim's mind was very clear, and it was his joy in conversation in the home to open the Scriptures and encourage those who visited. He was never happier than when discussing the Word of God.

In Col 4:12 the apostle Paul wrote about the godly Epaphras, 'who is one of you, a servant of Christ.' It will always be our privilege as an assembly to remember brother Jim as 'one of us.' He slipped peacefully home on November 30th 2021, aged 93 and we all feel the loss keenly. His funeral service took place on December 3rd in the Glengormley Gospel Hall. Long-time friend, Walter Boyd, gave the address while Drew Allen gave a tribute from the family and Ivan Gordon chaired and gave a tribute on behalf of the assembly. Jim's sons Drew and Graeme were responsible for the service in the cemetery.

We salute the memory of brother Jim Allen. He fought a good fight, finished his course, and his record is on high. His wife, Hilary was an outstanding helpmeet especially as Jim grew physically weaker and we look to the Lord to comfort her and the family. In 1 Cor 4:15 Paul wrote, 'For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ yet have ye not many fathers.' The testimony of the believers in the assembly here is that in brother Jim we had both an instructor and a father. Truly 'The memory of the just is blessed.'

Ivan Gordon

ENGLAND Pop. 56 Mil. Datchet

In the weeks leading up to Easter, we plan God willing to have at least 8 opportunities presenting the Easter exhibition to many young people in the local area. We pick a slightly different theme each year and two years ago had the planning completed based on 'rulers and kings'. We were not able to use it then due to the first lockdown and this year it will fit nicely with the Queen's anniversary celebrations. We intend giving the children some take home material on the Queen and her faith (and are also praying about whether there is scope for some suitable witness along this vein in Windsor later in the year).

It has been encouraging to see how welcoming the schools have been to us returning to do assemblies in person, even if they sometimes request we revert to Zoom at short notice when there is a peak in covid cases in a particular class. For each Christmas exhibition visit last term we wondered if it would get cancelled, but in the Lord's goodness, over a 1000 youngsters and staff were able to hear about the Saviour, including in 2 new schools.

The airport chaplaincy at Heathrow continues to enable a good number of conversations, despite the lower levels of air travel. On 'quiet' days there are more opportunities to engage with workers, and the staff Bible study continues to be a blessing. Quiet is relative - on the least busy days 50,000 passengers still pass through Heathrow, and most shifts provide almost endless opportunities to show Christian kindness, bring peace into stressful situations and engage in spiritual conversations. Helping a teenager travelling alone who was having a panic attack to successfully board their flight, spending time with a crew who had had a passenger die on board and praying with some Christians travelling in difficult circumstances are examples from the past few weeks. We do value prayer as we are very dependent on divine overruling for the 'at the right time, in the right place' encounters. We need wisdom and grace beyond ourselves in these encounters, and for the Lord to use the seed sown for His honour.

C. 2012 7/2/22 STEVE & JUDI BUCKERIDGE

ETHIOPIA Pop. 112 Mil. UK 4 Addis Ababa

I am giving a short update of my visit during my first week here in Ethiopia.

This past weekend we went up north and were able to visit three places: Kemisay, Batie, where there are two assemblies, and Combolcha. I was a bit on edge not knowing what things would be like, but I didn't need to fear at all.

From the various reports from the locals, they all had a very harrowing experience recently due to the activity of the Tigre rebels. They were fearful, as they had no idea how things would finish.

At Kemisay, all the believers were spared from serious harm, although one brother was beaten by mistake, and an evangelist was in prison for a short time. The soldiers arrived from Dessie and Combolcha and they were there for one month and 5 days. I felt that they had counted every day! There was no electricity or water and everything that the believers wanted to buy was outwith their ability, as it was impossible to buy. Many of the believers were without the normal commodities.

There were two outreach works from Kemisay, but there has been so much opposition, they now meet with the assembly, which now has around 500 in fellowship.

We moved on to Combolcha and found some friends who gave a different story. A good number of the buildings, the hospital, the university and some hotels were destroyed. They had the same problems as Kemisay, with the rebels going round the houses and taking away mobile phones, computers, medicines and emptying many of the shops.

We then moved on to Batie where it seems that the government

drones were very effective in dealing with many of the rebel leaders. Thankfully, the believers were not affected. We met with a diminished number of believers as some are still fearful as to what might happen, but we found that the army is there in big numbers and are controlling things well.

We sought to encourage them and to remind them that there was a higher hand controlling things. We really enjoyed our time with the local believers.

We arrived back in Addis on Monday. I was glad that I had managed to travel north to this area, as I originally thought it would have been out of bounds. Please continue to pray for Dr Aby (Prime Minister) that he might be given wisdom at this time.

C. 1969 31/1/22

ROBERT REVIE

BOLIVIA Pop. 11.5 Mil. UK 2 Cochabamba

I'm afraid we haven't got off to a good start to the New Year. Covid19 is rampant again and we are back to online Zoom meetings. This time the virus seems much more contagious, and almost every family in the assembly has been affected by it, some for the second time. Thankfully most people recover, but sadly three of our neighbours have died within the last few weeks. One was from the shop round the corner where we buy our bread and milk. Jenny, the doctor next door, says the neighborhood is full of covid; I don't know how we have escaped! We are grateful of the Lord's protection.

Please pray for a young fellow called Jhonatin. He has had a bad cold since early January. He kept thinking he would get better but instead he steadily got worse and was diagnosed as having Covid. During that time, he came to know the Lord and wrote out his testimony. Today he is in Intensive Care. Yesterday they operated on one lung that was badly damaged. He is only 25. Pray that he will recover to give testimony to the power of prayer.

We now have to carry a vaccine identification or passport and those who are against it are out marching and blocking the roads. It's causing a big problem.

One young girl was so keen to be baptised that we opened the assembly building a week past Saturday to baptise her. Some of the young people's camps have taken place as well. It's impossible to keep young people from activities. God is working in many of these young lives. A young believer has just been commended to the Lord's Work at San Lorenzo in the jungle. We also have two young girls in Africa; Claudia is in Uganda and Katia in Ethiopia.

Maybe you have been praying for Jhonny who had a stroke over a year ago. His progress is very slow. His mother is caring for him because his wife has to work. They have two young children. He doesn't recognise Ruth as his wife, it's so sad. Now Ruth has Covid and is poorly. Many in her family have also contracted the virus. We try to encourage everyone and help as much as we can. Mario is much better but still has physiotherapy three times a week. The good thing is his diabetes is stable at the moment.

C. 1977 7/2/22

MARIO & HELEN PONCE

BRAZIL Pop. 214 Mil. UK 20 Santa Maria

Christine has been here with me over the past three weeks, but sadly her visit ends on Saturday. Farewells never are easy, but we thank God that she was able to come, and especially that she kept fairly well during her time here.

A few weeks ago, a brother from the assembly offered us the use of his home for a Saturday afternoon Gospel Meeting. He lives in a country district where we have had meetings in the past, but initially his own wife was most opposed. We thank God that her attitude has changed, and she now listens attentively. Last Saturday, she told us that she would like to be saved. Please pray for Dona Iraci. Her aged mother has attended each meeting, along with her 23-year-old son. Guilherme is in the Brazilian military. He used to attend

meetings that we held in the nearby town called Restinga Seca. This past weekend, he asked me to get him a Bible. We feel that God is working in this home and family.

C. 1988 10/2/22 JOHN & CHRISTINE McCANN

11TH

Acts 17:1-15

FRANCE Pop. 67 Mil. UK 40 Meyzieu

We have recently been encouraged by the conversion of two students. They are brother and sister, both brought up in a Christian home, but were very rebellious until their late teens. The Lord answered their parent's prayers, and both came to faith in Christ a couple of years ago. The change is remarkable. Their faces have actually changed from being hard and rebellious to being loving and smiling. It is great seeing them not only present at meetings but also taking up responsibilities. May this encourage all of us who have unbelieving adult children. Keep on praying!

The elders of our local assembly have decided to organise a series of talks on different ethical subjects – parents of young children, abortion, suicide, euthanasia etc. They have asked me to give a talk on the subject of transgenders. I would never have chosen this subject, but due to having studied it quite a bit, I have been asked to give this talk. It will be especially for believers, but we know that some non-Christians may well be present. Please pray for the preparation and the talk itself which will take place on Friday 4th March.

Last week, Brigitte sent the 365 short meditations for the 2023 calendar to Dorothee, the last person to check them before they will be printed in the spring. This is always a mammoth task.

Last Sunday I preached in an assembly in the south of France. I was very involved in this church as they went through a major crisis a few years ago. I did a few visits to listen to the grievances of different people as I tried to provide help and advice. I am very pleased to report that for the last couple of years, the fellowship is very peaceful, loving and growing. May the Lord protect each 'little flock'.

C. 1980/84 3/2/22 DAVID & BRIGITTE SUTHERLAND

12TH

Acts 17:16-34

AUSTRALIA Pop 25 Mil. Strathalbyn

Here in South Australia, as it is all across the world, we have felt the impacts of change due to Covid. It is sad to see how the changes, whether big or small, can expose so many needs among us - no greater than the need to draw near to God. Sadly, during the past year we have seen some families drift away who used to attend our outreach meetings so faithfully. They have been hindered by various activities.

Nevertheless, we have so much to be thankful for. We are able to continue with our ongoing regular outreach in the gospel, weekly cottage meetings and outreach Bible studies. At the end of last year, we had meetings in Murray Bridge. A family who live there, the Roffels, have attended the Gospel meetings in Strath for about a year now. They really put in a big effort during the Murray Bridge meetings and were much encouraged. Of recent weeks, they have started to attend our outreach bible study. This is the first teaching/ministry meetings they have attended. They all confess Christ as Saviour - 7 adults in all. Please pray that they are built up in the faith and appreciate the centrality of Christ and His exclusive place in the Church of God, which is the pillar and ground of the truth. Currently they fellowship together at home.

Please also pray for the cottage meetings we have in the city. After many weeks where no one other than believers turned up, we wondered if it was time to stop. In the grace of God, that suddenly and markedly changed with neighbours coming in who had previously never shown much interest other than for a homemade meal. Their questions were real and the pain they expressed because of lives of sin, was so sad (They all have suffered from drugs, alcohol, prostitution, and the associated poverty). They have continued to come over the last few weeks. We have been most humbled to see this. Pray that in God's grace, it will result in salvation. We would value your prayers for Steve, Jan and Sharon.

We have had some good conversations in Rundle Mall of late and so appreciate continued prayer for the street work. Last Friday evening, we had long conversations with three young(ish) men, one of whom told us he has been 'searching' for many years. He was on a short visit to Adelaide, but we trust that the word spoken in the gospel to him will burden his heart, and he will keep striving until He comes to a knowledge of the truth. We trust that we will be able to have further tent meetings before the season ends. This is not easy at the present time; God alone can open doors.

C. 2015 11/2/22 BRYAN & DAWN STEWART

13TH

Acts 18:1-22

FRANCE Pop. 67 Mil. UK 40 Perpignan

Here in Perpignan, the assembly is still very small, with just five in fellowship. The long periods of lock-down measures have not helped, but things are much easier now. I have just written two tracts for local distribution. Pia is a small town with 7,000 inhabitants. To introduce the Gospel message, I have referred to historical events. One took place about the year 200 BC when Hannibal came up through Spain, and then, more than likely, across the plain where Pia is situated – and on towards Rome. His army included 37 elephants, and so the tract is entitled '37 elephants in Pia'. Sadly, we realise that so very few people now read the Bible. However, we are hoping that this rather unusual title will encourage people in the town to continue reading the tract. We look to the Lord for His blessing on this outreach work. Your continued prayer for us and France is valued.

17/1/22

DENIS & JEAN O'HARE

SOUTH AFRICA Pop. 58 Mil. UK 7 Cape Town

After a long period of waiting on the Lord, we have come to the conclusion that we are being redirected back to Scotland from South Africa. This is mainly due to the possibility of medical interventions being needed for Alexander during his teenage years. He is well for now, but we are trying to be wise and take on board medical advice we have received. We intend to return to Scotland around the end of June 2022 in the will of the Lord. We believe the Lord is redirecting us to continue in His work in the UK and elsewhere as He may lead, and we enjoy the fellowship of our commending assembly, Glencraig, in this exercise. We are sad to be leaving the work in South Africa which we have been privileged to participate in over these years. Please pray for the assemblies in South Africa. Pray also for us, that God in His grace will keep Alexander well, and that the Lord will help and guide us as we relocate and resetttle God willing.

C. 2016 7/2/22

ALASTAIR & ANDREA BAIJAL

14TH

Acts 18:23 to 19:20

WALES Pop. 3.1 Mil. Pembrokeshire

Looking back over 55 years

With much thankfulness at the Lord's faithful care, we recall, as a young man of twenty four, just one year saved, stopping at traffic lights in Swansea. There was a brother from the assembly in Fforestfach standing on the pavement holding up a large gospel banner, so courageous in his love for Christ and lost sinners.

I returned to speak to the brother and asked if he could kindly provide me with a similar banner, which he gladly did. That was over 55 years ago.

So I began in my own town, then moving to other towns and villages, cattle and sheep markets, lifting up my banner and my voice to sound forth the Word.

It was over fifty years ago that we commenced our first Gospel Tent Meetings, raising it in the town of Narberth for one month. So began this work that has filled six months of every summer over those rapidly passing years.

At the close of 2021, we gave God thanks that our third purchased tent would have been raised in 125 different areas for the 164th time. Sometimes it was full, sometimes few attended. Sometimes we only lasted a few nights as local teenagers tore down the tents and scattered the poles locally. But in it all, the Lord was faithful!

Forty five years ago, after much searching of heart, I gave up my slate roof work, leaving my twelve hundred customers, who were quite upset at my finishing. We entered into the most blessed of Masters – what an experience it has been! With Lily, my wife and helpmeet, and our four children, the Lord gracious provided over the years and guided our service.

We have experienced many blessed times from Dinas to Tregaron and to Builth Wells, where meetings were filled with sinners from the locality. Through the kindness of our God, wonderful memories live on. We do praise His name!

6/2/22

DAVID & LILY MORGAN

15TH

Acts 19:21-41

WALES Pop. 3.1 Mil. Pembrokeshire
Looking back over 2021

With the help of the Lord, we raised our Gospel Tent in June in Saron, Llandysul. Up to 50 souls gathered, with 40 of them from the locality. Among them were evangelical believers who sadly have been taught that they will go through the Tribulation. Each night we spoke on the Lord's imminent return and subsequent events. The interest remained encouraging throughout the meetings.

We then moved to Lampeter, a strong Unitarian area, where we saw up to 30 people coming in under the sound of the Gospel. Some would never have been in a religious meeting in their lives. However, the door is open for us, God willing, to visit them in their homes in coming days – a work that takes time and patience, but is very enjoyable.

Newquay is a coastal town in Cardigan, where we have been on a couple of occasions. There are a group of motorbike men living there who come together to discuss the Scriptures among themselves. They came to the meetings and were greatly helped and invited us to meet them at any time. These were happy and encouraging meetings. We look to the Lord to bless the little effort there, for His glory.

We then headed for Manorbier, five miles west of Tenby. We have worked this area for over forty years and this time, it also turned out to be a blessed time. This concluded a wonderful summer, for which we thank the Lord.

We continue to visit the Swansea Docks, with ships coming in from all over Europe, Eastern Europe and the Philippines. Those on the ships are usually very happy to take our calendars and tracts.

When we are not in the tent, we love to preach each Tuesday in the open air in the city centre of Swansea. Many sit and eat their lunch as they listen to the Gospel. The assembly at Danygraig is just on the outskirts of the city, and we are thankful that the little light continues to shine, after a hundred years of testimony.

6/2/22

DAVID & LILY MORGAN

16TH

Acts 20:1-16

SCOTLAND Pop. 5.5 Mil. Inverness

We were involved in a number of outreach programs that concluded for the holiday season and are readjusting our focus for the new year. Having completed in November a Wednesday evening Christianity Explored course with a few interested, I decided to do a three-week course on 'Unpacking Christmas'. This little course allowed a look at some of the prophecies on Christ, the story of the Lord's birth, and finally the reason that He came. We were encouraged to see a number of different people in the hall over the period.

Please particularly remember Molly, a young Christian who struggles very badly with mental illness, and her brother, Kieran, who doesn't live locally but is a great burden to her. Also remember Laura and Samantha who came to the courses quite frequently throughout November and December. They would be religiously inclined without a full understanding the gospel. Please pray for enlightenment – God appears to be working. Also remember Emma, contacted by a sister in fellowship at the beginning of 2021, who later professed faith in Christ and appears to have a real interest in the Word.

We managed to get into the town on a couple of occasions over December for the Coffee and Tract Stand. This led to a number of conversations. Please pray for Zac and Moon especially, both wheelchair users, both who need salvation. Please remember our neighbour Bruce, who is reaching the last stages of cancer. We have been able to witness to him on several occasions. We are praying that the Word of God will reach into his heart before he passes on.

We managed to produce our 'bespoke' Culloden Christian Assembly Highland Calendar again for another year. We have had some good feedback on the calendar and are very thankful for the skill in design and photography of a couple of the members of the Assembly. We look to the Lord for His blessing on this work.

We managed to get away to Northern Ireland for nine days at the start of the New Year, it was great for the children to catch up with their grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins! We all had a great time. As well as a few responsibilities with various assemblies through 2022, I'm hoping to develop the online work, get out on the doors with John's Gospel and continue to work with the growing list of contacts that we have. Our Friday night Home Bible Study is restarting soon, please pray for this work as well as the normal assembly activities. Lindsey joins me in thanking you for your fellowship and prayers.

C. 2017 26/1/22 ANDREW & LINDSEY WILLIAMSON

17TH

Acts 20:17-38

ANGOLA Pop. 32 Mil. UK 4 Lunda Norte

Brian Howden recently made a trip to Cafunfo (Lunda Norte Province) in the north of Angola towards the Congo border. It is a hard 14 hour drive and he took with him Paula who is responsible for the Saurimo Emmaus Office, Bigelo who helps her and Jacob who is responsible for the Print Room. The purpose was to try to resurrect the seemingly ineffective Emmaus work there, combined with an opportunity for some Bible teaching.

They took with them about 1,000kg of literature, as well as 180 litres of diesel for the long drive. On arrival, Chokwe Bibles and hymnbooks sold out within an hour. They didn't even get an opportunity to put them on display on the shelves! Groups of men who are doing the work of evangelists came to ask for tracts. About 1,200 were present for the Saturday afternoon Bible teaching. Over 2,000 attended on the Sunday afternoon, so the meeting was held outside in the sweltering sun – the hall was not big enough.

We give God thanks for the safe travel on the arduous journey there and back. We also praise the Lord that the isolated assemblies and believers showed a great hunger for sound Scriptural teaching and a thirst for Bibles, hymn books and other literature.

Please pray for the local evangelists in this area in the north of the country and the work they do. Please also pray for the restart of the Emmaus work. Pray that the elders will wisely choose two young men to take on responsibility for the Emmaus work and the book room.

Update from VICTOR MICHAEL and JOHN FENN
15/2/22 (Angola Literature Fund)

18TH

Acts 21:1-16

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

At the beginning of January, I was not feeling too well, and tested positive for Covid or some variants. It was more like a cold, sore throat and a cough, but I got the medication, and was told to rest, eat, and drink lots. I also slept a lot, which was good. In relation to the reports of people about 2 years ago, it was quite mild. I have had my 2 doses of vaccine and the booster, which seems to have helped a lot.

Sunday school and the meetings were stopped for a few weeks but have returned. There are less children coming just now as some are not well. Between children and adults, we have about 30 attending. We are also seeing the result of the years of lockdown and damage done to the children by staying at home and the parents not really helping them. We are now seeing some children around 9 years old who are struggling to read or do not know how to write. Please pray for these children as we will have to concentrate on more oral work to teach them God's Word. If we try to teach them to read, there is no time for the stories.

Some schools here have gone to being all day, and one has 2 sessions - the first lot going from 7am to 2pm and the next one from 2.15pm to 9.15pm. The teachers are having to adapt to a new routine, and some have left to go to a different job. This is the first week back at school so will see how things go on Sunday, as we get feedback from the children.

11/2/22

MARGARET CRAWFORD

19TH

Acts 21:17-40

BRAZIL Pop. 214 Mil. UK 20 Descalvado

Here in our region, there is a good number of people infected with Covid, but we are grateful that symptoms aren't very severe. In our assembly this past month quite a few have been infected but we thank the Lord they all recovered and didn't need hospitalization.

The number of unsaved people requesting home visits has increased and we try to do as many as we can. A couple of weeks ago we visited D. Cida. She lives next door to the hall and hears all the gospel messages (for we have a loudspeaker system that relays the messages to the houses around the hall). She is presently having chemotherapy, and this has caused her to think a bit more about her soul. She still hasn't understood her need of salvation and we would value prayer for her.

Yesterday we visited a young couple with two children. The wife is in fellowship, but her husband isn't. He comes regularly to meetings and is always very friendly. During our talk with him he said he is saved. We would value prayer for Jonatan that he would take the next step and be baptised.

Last month we had two open air meetings and we plan to have them now every fortnight DV. We always get a good number of people listening to these meetings, especially people that won't come to the hall for fear. The radio program carries on and this also reaches people that won't attend the hall. We know that the Lord has promised that His Word will not return to Him void and so we continue sowing and praying that soon we may reap. The great number of sisters in the assembly with unsaved husbands is a big burden on our hearts and we would value prayer that the Lord may grant us the joy of seeing these men saved. At the moment we have 8 sisters in this situation (Edilene, Marlene,

Marli, Taisa, Diene, Dalgiza, Aninha, Joana) and we also have 5 brothers (Sr Ze Lourenço, Hernani, Romerito, Dirceu, Sr Antonio) with unsaved wives. We long that these homes will be united in salvation.

C. 1998 (Brazil)

MARCO & JANICE GEBARA

20TH

Acts 22:1-21

ROMANIA Pop. 19.5 Mil. UK 3

We were reminded last night from the 'Choice Gleanings' calendar of the verse, 'Let all that you do be done in love (1 Cor 16:14). We have to confess that this can be a challenge after a busy day with extra duties. So it is good when our Lord reminds us of the way in which He asks us to serve Him.

Currently we have all 7 rooms occupied in 'Casa Luca'. Our clients come and go, some staying for as long as 7 weeks, during which time we get to know them quite well. Recently, Nicu had some very good conversations with Manuela who, undergoing treatment for breast cancer, has just been diagnosed with bone cancer too. Naturally, she was quite depressed, feeling that God was punishing her for not repenting of her sin. We had the opportunity to take her and her daughter to the midweek meeting at the assembly. Tim was able to present the Gospel, to which they gave good attention. Please pray for Manuela and Renata, that they will come to know and love the Lord Jesus.

2/2/22

TIM & JENNY GOODING

21ST

Acts 22:22 to 23:11

ZIMBABWE Pop. 15 Mil. UK 7 Bulawayo*The importance of Prayer:*

- To pray for the Lord's purposes and work; Matt 9:38 'therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'
- To pray for others; Matt 5:44 'But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you'
- To pray for ourselves, especially because of temptation. Lk 22:46 'and He said to them, Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation'.

In December a distribution of seed and fertiliser was made to 40 of our rural families in the Harare area, so that they could plant this year's crop. We still look to the Lord for good rains to bring in a harvest.

Some of the Lecturers at the college have had covid, but all those affected have recovered well. The lectures this past year have been delayed because of restrictions and so the last semester of the year is going over into 2022. It has now been decided to extend the semester, ending in May with the exams.

One of the difficulties experienced by the students is that of having access to books for their studies. This is because they are no longer staying at the college but do their studies from home. We use the medium of WhatsApp.

C.1976 7/2/22

DERYCK JONES

LEBANON Pop. 60 Mil.

There are many reasons to be thankful and also much to pray for across the world, especially at this time in Lebanon, when there are challenges on all sides.

Lebanon has continued to experience political and economic challenges. The situation changes constantly, and international issues are reflected in what happens. Local currency has continued to lose its value, and this has a massive impact on the cost of living.

A general strike took place this week and government schoolteachers have refused to return to school until they receive financial support and payment for their work. School fees have to increase to reflect the rising cost of fuel for the generator, paper etc. This will be an added burden for many families.

The number of cases of Covid-19 has continued to increase but not at the numbers seen in Europe and the UK. One factor in this is that tests are expensive, so it is likely that the actual number is much higher. Only around 30% of the population are vaccinated (not including the booster) so this is an issue that makes the situation more difficult. This is not due to a lack of vaccines but people choosing not to take it. Meanwhile, hospitals are struggling for staff as many have gone overseas and medication can be difficult to find.

It can be difficult to bring hope to people when their basic needs are either missing or a constant battle for them. Please do pray for more local believers to reach out to people around them. Please pray for me and the other believers here, that we would remain faithful and share the only Hope for the world according to the opportunities we have. I hope that returning to school will help people to regain some kind of routine in their lives, and that staff can support one another in the situation. Please pray that school assemblies can safely resume with children.

My new house is directly behind the old place but has a very different feel. Neighbours have been much more open to building relationships and it has been great getting to know them more. It is a blessing to be able to share in their lives and seek to encourage them even in the hard times. Thank you for your continued prayer and support.

17/1/22

ANDREA SMITH

FRANCE Pop. 67 Mil. UK 40 Nantes

We are thankful to be safely back home after our unexpected visit to Canada last month. As we look back on the circumstances of that journey, we are full of thanksgiving. The Lord truly opened up the way before us. It wasn't the Red Sea, but it felt like it!

On Sunday we invited a group of the young adults for dinner. Covid restrictions have put a damper on such events for so long now. It was special to be able to see our table pulled out to its longest length again! Several of the young folks have only been in Nantes since September so it was a great occasion to get to know them better. Quite early on in the meal someone asked how we came to be in France and we were able to tell them the story of God's call, and of how we met. You could have heard a pin drop! We are so thankful for this quality time spent with these young folks. I guess as the years go on, we feel more and more our age, and we realise what a privilege to still have opportunities to have some influence on the younger generation. We value your prayers for them all. There were nine of them, originating from

Switzerland, the French Caribbean (4), Gabon, Cameroon, and just two from mainland France.

We ask prayer for us as we meet with a lady from the fellowship who has been struggling with depression for a year and a half now. At times she seems a bit better, but then she plunges again. As we spend time with her, we are reminded again of how complex a human being really is, and how powerless we are in ourselves to help her. And yet she keeps coming back. Please pray for a real and lasting change in her body, soul and mind. Pray too for her husband who is not a believer.

Remember too the ongoing plans to start Sunday meetings in two new areas of the city. Little by little the details are coming together and perhaps before the summer there will be some more news on that front. May the Lord guide in all the details, for unless He build the house, we labour in vain (Psalm 127:1).

C. 1985/88

8/2/22

GERRY & DOROTHY SEED

CYPRUS Pop. 1.2 Mil. Limassol

The Omicron virus is still rife in Cyprus, with over 3,000 new cases every day. Due to this, we are only meeting for the Breaking of Bread until the situation improves.

We recently had the opportunity to distribute calendars and 'Good Seed' daily reading books in English and Russian among friends and neighbours. Please pray that the Word of God shared in this way will bring much fruit and will deepen spiritual interest.

Continue to remember the various articles published online in English and Macedonian. Recently, there was a series of earthquakes in the Bitola region of Macedonia that caused much panic and fear among the people. There were no injuries, but some building had extensive damage. Pray that God will awaken people spiritually through these events and that life will be preserved in areas of seismic activity.

Please pray for blessing as we continue to share literature and have conversations with various individuals. We are assured that God's Word will not return unto Him void.

14/1/22

OLIVE WILSON

INDIA Pop. 1,370 Mil. UK 3 Nezi

The gospel meetings from 3-7 January in Nezi, a nondescript village in Darjeeling, have been one of the most inspiring blessings, coming right at the start of the year. This small village has five denominational churches. However, for some strange reason, many of these animistic families who are deeply interested in hearing the gospel, desire to hear it only from us. They show no interest in going to the churches that are around them.

The assembly in Gangtok had made a few attempts in the past to start a gospel work there. However, despite showing tremendous promise, the work largely remained unattended.

A young local boy, Pawan, had attended a series of gospel meetings in Aiyabari, Nepal and had gotten saved. But instead of staying in Nezi, he left behind his job as a junior engineer in one of the hydro power projects in Nezi and moved to Nepal to help Bhupal, a missionary in Damak. While returning from an evangelistic tour in Ghaighat Nepal, Pawan, along with five other brethren met with a car accident in which two believers, Tika Shrestha and Tikanarayan Shrestha were called home to glory

and Pawan sustained serious injuries. He lost his hearing in one of his ears and suffered facial paralysis on one side. While he was recovering in his home village of Nezi, the Covid pandemic shut the world down, cutting him completely off from the rest of the believers in Gangtok and Nepal. However, God has his own ways of working, which are higher than the heavens are above the earth. Some of his relatives began to join the gospel meetings on Zoom. A new contact was established.

The assembly in Gangtok prayed for the Lord's guidance and decided to hold a five-day gospel series from 3-7 January. Tara Prashad Rai, Kriti Pradhan, Nitya Rai and Reya Subba professed faith during these meetings. The numbers began to increase every night. We prayed and decided to extend the meetings for five more days from 10-14 January. Once again, there was really good interest in the gospel. The brethren went out to personally evangelize the area in the afternoons. Chandra Limboo, a young girl was handed a gospel tract which she read and shortly thereafter, trusted the Lord on her own. Saheel Rai, the son of Tara Prashad Rai, heard the gospel in Nezi for the first time in his life and on the 8th night, trusted the Lord as his Saviour. Sidhant, a school dropout struggled every night and finally trusted the Lord also. We are so thankful to the Lord for such wonderful blessing in salvation.

While these meetings were going on, a local girl by the name of Maryada who is presently working as a schoolteacher in Bihar, another state in India, was taking a keen interest in what was going on in Nezi. She heard of her friend Kriti getting saved. Marayada had heard the gospel over Zoom many a time and had shown deep interest. Kriti continued to share the gospel with her over the phone. On 8 January, the 6th night, she also trusted Christ. Please pray for the work in Nezi and these new believers, that they will be nurtured and guided, and grow in grace.

16/2/22

CHARLES DAVIDSON (N Ireland)

26TH

Acts 26:12-32

INDIA Pop. 1,370 Mil. UK 3 Gangtok

Scripture informs us that it is good to return and give thanks to the Lord. Truly our hearts have been encouraged that, just as I was about to cancel my trip to Gangtok in India, all the restrictions have suddenly been dropped. It will be wonderful to see the beloved brethren and sisters in India and Nepal again after a 2 year absence. The plans are to have Gospel meetings in Gangtok and then Nezi.

Meanwhile, wonderful news from brother Jiwan Rai. He confirms that believers will be gathering as an assembly to break bread in Jorethang for the first time on 27 February, God willing. It will be an answer to the prayers of many. New converts from Nezi and Budang will be attending the Jorethang assembly.

In order to help the newly saved believers in Nezi and the two girls in Budang (Shreya Rai and Priya Tamang), the local believers are planning to hold weekly Bible studies in Jorethang on Sunday evenings.

Pawan has a vehicle that can hold 10 and he will use this to bring the believers from Nezi to Jorethang.

The Gangtok assembly organised a three-day gospel series from 21st to 23rd February at the Tadong Gospel Hall. Surprisingly, against our expectations, the hall was nearly full the first night. It was completely full by the third night. I felt tempted to cancel my trip to Nezi and continue the meetings in Gangtok. It is so encouraging to hear of salvation.

16/2/22

CHARLES DAVIDSON (N Ireland)

27TH

Acts 27:1-26

MEXICO Pop. 126 Mil. UK 4 Yucatan

We want to update you on how things are going here since we know you are praying for us:

Mérida: Evangelization has focused on the east of the city. We just rented a house to use it as a gospel hall. It is located on an avenue that connects several neighborhoods and very close to a public hospital.

Puerto Progreso: We began to evangelize in Puerto Progreso (it is 30 minutes from Mérida) with texts and Vía magazines and we have seen a good responsive attitude from the people. A door was opened to commence a Bible class for children in a Kiosco (public square) and after the class, I took the opportunity to preach the gospel with a megaphone. We would appreciate continued prayer for Mrs. Yenny, Karina, and Raquel, who are mothers of some of the children in the class and have listened carefully to the gospel message.

'For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to Whom be glory for ever. Amen' - Romans 11:36

C.2014 17/2/22 ANDERSON & MARIU HERNANDEZ

28TH

Acts 27:27 to 28:10

INDIA Pop. 1,370 Mil. UK 3 Bethany Hospital, Mumbai

Thank you so much for your prayers for us and for the work and ministry here in Thane, Mumbai.

After the peak of the second wave of Covid in May and June last year, which saw many seriously ill, we had a bit of a respite in August, September, October; we even had a holiday in the UK in October, and met family and friends .

The respite was much needed at the hospital which had seen a steady flow of Covid patients for nearly 18 months. Having treated over 5,000 Covid in patients and around 15,000 in the Covid outpatients and casualty, we downsized our Covid wards and ICU, and started coming to some form of normality at the hospital. The non-Covid side then exploded, with many patients who should have been treated earlier surfacing, including many with advanced inoperable disease.

However, the respite was short lived! In December we were hit again, this time with Omicron, and at present as I write we have over 100 staff infected at the hospital. We have converted the wards and the ICU again to accommodate the overflow of Covid patients. Our conference room has also been converted to a 14-bed ward, and we have a total of about 85 Covid patients, 15 of which are in the ICU.

It has been difficult as we are now understaffed and oversubscribed, but the Lord has been sustaining us and looking after us. His mercies have been new every morning, and we can testify that we have lacked nothing. This time the infection is not so virulent and we have hardly had any mortalities, for which we are so grateful to our God.

Do pray for us, our staff, patients, and relatives. Pray that Bethany Hospital will continue to be a 'city on a hill', a 'light on the lamp stand' and 'salt' protecting the decay, and giving flavour, hope and peace to a society which so much needs our Saviour.

Our end-of-life project is still awaiting clearances, which has been delayed due to Covid. We require your prayers for this please.

19/1/22

DR STEPHEN & CLAIRE ALFRED

29TH

Acts 28:11-31

**CYPRUS Pop. 1.2 Mil. UK 6
Logos English School of Education**

We continue to see blessing in the Logos School, with good numbers attending despite the continuation of the pandemic. As a school we are tested regularly, and this can sometimes be quite a challenge. We were glad that students were able to sit IGCSE and A level exams last year and obtained some very good results.

We are pleased that the Lord answered our prayers about the passing of our buildings so far by the authorities. We are up to date with the requirements for the fire department. We await the very important building license after an inspection towards the end of last year.

Classroom space still remains a problem and we are working through some solutions. The school has a good reputation in the city and we have always had a good relationship with our neighbours. We have felt that our students and parents have felt the school to be a safe haven during these times. We know this is due to the prayers of the saints.

We are glad that the Assembly still meets on Sundays for the Breaking of Bread. We pray that this can continue. Some local Christians have recently been coming to observe. Please pray for this interesting development, that the Lord will lead, guide and bless.

7/2/22

JOHN & JENIFER ROSS

30TH

Mark 1:1-20

ZAMBIA Pop. 18 Mil. UK 40 Writing from USA

We have now been in America for over 4 months, and we continue to have so much for which to bless the Lord.

We appreciate the kindness of CMML (Christian Missions in Many Lands) in allowing us to stay here in New Jersey. We have been privileged to get to know a little more of the team here and enjoy the daily prayer times with the staff each morning. The children have also been kept busy helping with various tasks such as grass cutting, shovelling snow, keeping the place clean and mailing out over 4,000 prayer handbooks.

We have continued to enjoy the privilege of visiting various assemblies in New Jersey and Pennsylvania both to encourage the believers and also update them on the work of the Lord in Zambia.

Tim has received his 'green card' and so is officially a resident in the US. We have really thanked the Lord for this, and realise it is another miracle of God in our relocation to the west. For many other missionaries, this process is very protracted – so we are grateful at how quickly it has been resolved.

We appreciate the daily contact with a number of people in the Loloma area due to the wonders of technology. The management team at the hospital continues to do an excellent job in providing quality health care on a spiritual foundation to the many patients in the area. The construction of a new multipurpose ward is well under way, and they are soon to start the construction of a new male ward. Both are clear testimonies of God being at work in the development of that facility.

One brother has been very faithful in his commitment to the weekly gospel radio session in Lunda. The local response to the Bible teaching has clear preaching has been very encouraging. One local pastor was waiting to talk to him outside, being amazed

to hear for the first time about divine order in a local assembly. Please pray that God will bless this work.

A monthly Saturday conference in one area continues to be a blessing, with Stephen Anderson and a Zambian brother being committed to this helpful consecutive teaching opportunity.

C. 1997 14/2/22

TIMOTHY & JOY BEER

31ST

Mark 1:21-45

**ALBANIA Pop. 3 Mil. UK 4 Gjirokaster
The Hiding Place**

The Hiding Place is a house in which a loving, caring atmosphere helps shelter young girls and their babies. It was established by the late Marijan Nijhof in 1998 and continues to look after needy Albanian children.

At the Hiding Place, we are thankful to the Lord for everything He has been doing, including His care, protection and love!

Please continue to pray for the children under our care. The experts at the Development Centre are very happy with the improvement that Jetmir, Ambra and Ola have made. Adela and Bela are making small steps, but it is fine for their development situation. Elidon, our youngest child, has grown up so fast. Now he can walk and is babbling. He is so active and curious, and he smiles all the time. Dani, Miri and Samuel, our oldest boy, are taking football courses and they love it. They are becoming teens and we can have good conversations with them.

The siblings Emanuela (age 8) and Samoel (age 6) came at the end of July last year with an emergency protection order. The Court decided to leave them in our custody. They sadly come from a domestic violence situation. In the beginning Samoel was so angry and didn't show his face, but now he seems to be more tranquil – and he has beautiful blue eyes! He is a very smart child and very active – and doesn't like rules. On the other hand, Ela is quiet and obedient.

Please pray that God's word becomes settled in the children's hearts. Pray also that we may be salt and light in this small community, for God's glory.

C=Date of Commendation

UK=Missionaries (approx.)

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