

4 CORNERS



MAGAZINE OF UFM WORLDWIDE | SPRING 2015

THE HUPLA PEOPLE RECEIVE THE BIBLE

The days of celebration were
just amazing to experience



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“LIFT UP YOUR EYES...”

‘Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed’ (Is. 51:6 – ESV).

At the beginning of this New Year it is thrilling to ‘*Lift up our eyes*’ and see what God is doing and to be reminded that his salvation will last forever.

In the UFM context we are delighted that, as a mission agency with the local church at the heart of what we are about, we have, in recent years, seen the number of **local churches** with which we are partnering increase by 50%. That increase has

meant that the number of **missionaries** that we work with has also doubled (over 150 long-term missionaries now). In turn, that increase has meant that the number of **countries** in which we serve alongside national churches and believers has grown rapidly too – over 40 countries now. When UFM started in 1931 the focus was on Congo, Brazil and PNG. These developments have led to the possibility of establishing **new partnerships**, too, with other agencies/ organisations, such as UCCF/ IFES. We continue to give thanks for the development of the work through the UFM USA office in Birmingham, Alabama. As the mission grows, so too, does the **Staff Team** and it has been a joy to see Elinor Magowan added to the

“Lift up your eyes”

team for three days a week as a Women's Pastoral Worker.

We praise God for these developments, profoundly so. It is his work and, with each new church and each new missionary and each new country and partnership, the good news about God and his salvation is getting around, and lives and communities are being changed all over the world!

"LIFT UP YOUR EYES..."

*Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, **lift up your eyes**, and see that the fields are white for harvest' (Jn. 4:35 – ESV).*

But even as we delight in what we can see God doing we must also '**lift up our eyes**' and see that the fields are white for harvest. There is still a lot to be done!

The latest figures from the Joshua Project (joshuaproject.net) remind us that 42.1% of the population of the world is unreached, that is: 2,998,484,000 individual people in 7,051 people



groups (by country). And then there are the 17.8% of the world's population who are nominal. There is a vast and urgent need for evangelism, Bible teaching, church planting.

There is real need too, in the UFM context, as we serve the Lord and his Church. We are deeply thankful for the prayers and multi-faceted support of so many people but please do continue to pray and support the work.

As the mission grows please **pray*** that we will serve our missionaries and their churches and supporters well, in sending and receiving countries. To be able to do this will require ongoing investment in the UK staff team and

our infra-structure (staff members, IT – hardware and software, office space – the Swindon office is currently at capacity). We look forward to working with all those who are already in the application process this year but also **pray*** that the Lord will call many more people to serve him – to reach the unreached, to teach the Bible, to strengthen existing UFM teams around the world. **Pray***, too, that in all that is going on we will know the Lord's leading and provision and that we will continue to grow in our confidence in him and his word.

I hope that you enjoy this Spring 2015 edition of '4 Corners'. It offers an exciting snapshot of the joys and challenges that we are facing around the world. I trust it will enable you and your local church, with us, to '**Lift up our eyes**' and see that '**his salvation will be forever**' and that '**the fields are white for harvest**' so that by his grace this will be another year for rejoicing and praying and serving.

Happy New Year!

JOHN-MARK

*We produce an annual *Prayer Diary*, a monthly *Prayer Calendar* and a leaflet called *Praying for Missionaries*. If you're not already connected to these resources and others (missionaries' prayer letters, blogs, email updates, etc.) and would like to receive any of them please contact one of our offices (details on the back of the magazine) or check out our website (www.ufm.org.uk) or our Facebook page (UFM Worldwide) or our Twitter account (@ufmworldwide).





THE HUPLA PEOPLE RECEIVE THE WHOLE BIBLE

Some things I heard said over the days of the launching and Dedication of the complete Hupla Bible were:

"We had a great time!

We had an International event!

We are so happy it's dangerous!

We had no big source of funds to pay for all the needs of putting on this event but God provided day by day!

We feasted and killed about 240 pigs!

We are amazed that our 'fathers' have translated the whole of God's Word into our language, now we younger generation are wondering what is our responsibility ...this is an amazing day!

I am proud of our elders and leaders as today we have the whole of God's Word in our language.

This is the 3rd full Bible to be printed in West Papua where we have approximately 276 languages. We are proud and now have a heavy responsibility"

THE DEDICATION OF THE HUPLA BIBLE

The Dedication and launch of the Hupla Bible took place in Soba on 1-3 December 2014. All the above remarks were repeated many times. For the first time copies of the new Hupla Bible were distributed to the people. The days of celebration were just amazing to experience. There was a sense of victory, of literal happiness and rejoicing, of fun as there was lots of dancing, singing and feasting. The Hupla people seemed just to be free. Many dressed up in traditional dress with many varieties of headgear, paint and so forth, though most would not have dressed like that for a long time or they would just have remembered their parents dressing like that or talking about how they dressed in the past. Some Huplas present were those who were the first believers and are now the very senior members of the tribe and church.

Several committees, in different locations, arranged the ceremony because the Huplas, through various events in their history now live in Dekai, Wamena and Elelim as well as Soba. The organizers were the second generation of Hupla Christians and included Government employees, members of the local Parliament and the translation team. The local Soba church leadership guided everything.

While there was an enormous amount of logistics needed in making the arrangements for the event, especially as they also built a large meeting hall in Soba to replace the one that had been built in the 1970's. At every meeting I attended I heard it said and prayed that this event was not to please people but only to honour God and lift up his Name. I believe wholeheartedly that God answered prayer.

THE WEEKS FOLLOWING THE BIBLE DEDICATION

During the weeks following the Dedication, although we were busy with Christmas and New Year events and celebrations, many Bibles have been requested and distributed. We have had visits from about 10 different groups here in Wamena including tribes, groups and church congregations whose languages are related to Hupla as spoken in Soba. These groups seem very, very grateful and excited that the full Bible is now in quite a closely related language to their mother tongue. Some will use it directly as written in Soba language and some are planning to use it as a basis to write it in their own dialect. Mathias, the chief translator, along with church leaders has visited and distributed the Bible among the 2 Hupla congregations in Elelim, which is the area some Hupla people went after the 1989 earthquake.

I myself made a visit to Soba for 3 days and there was opportunity to see everyone resting up.

Mathias,
the chief
translator



We had useful conversations about the year ahead how we plan to get individuals and congregations into reading and understanding the Bible. So in some ways these are new opportunities and new beginnings in the Hupla church, though of course they have had the NT since 1994, and many have been using it regularly. These are exciting times!

WE GIVE PRAISE AND THANKS TO GOD

This milestone has not been reached without much struggle, determination, support, prayer, giving and, most of all, vision from God to the Hupla people themselves. They have demonstrated their commitment to this vision throughout the years and have been faithful in reading over and checking the text and also keeping the team encouraged. An extraordinary number of people have supported this project in prayer and giving for many years from the time we commenced the New Testament in earnest in the early 1980s through to

its completion in 1994. Then from 1998 the Old Testament, which is now complete. Thank you so much. This has been a worldwide team effort and a huge privilege to be involved in at this end working with the local team and with Mathias as the chief translator. His dedication and patience have been a huge encouragement and blessing to me. I have been privileged to see him growing in the Lord. Now he is often asked to preach and share the Word as well as having a growing spiritual authority among his own people. Please pray that, through his Word and the work of the Holy Spirit, the Lord will raise up many more godly Christians and leaders amongst the Hupla people. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

SUE TRENIER



KEEP CALM AND THINK BIBLICALLY

Several times recently I have been asked by concerned Christians questions along the lines of “Will Muslims take over in the UK and the West?” or “How should we respond to the violence of Jihadists and Islamic State?” My precise answer depends upon the circumstances, but is usually along the lines of “keep calm and think biblically”!

What do I mean? There is a danger that we allow our thinking to be manipulated by the secular media or the agenda of people who want to scare us into supporting

their particular cause. So here are some suggestions for a calm and biblical approach to Islam and current world events:



There is no God-given reason why the UK or any other country should not become Muslim. Most of the countries of the Middle East and North Africa now considered to be Muslim were once considered “Christian”. Why should our fate be any different? Do we really believe that somehow we deserve God’s favour more than other nations? Not only is this unbiblical, it is also

racist! Already our so-called “Christian” countries are, in practice, aggressively secular. Political leaders, and even some Church leaders, deny key Christian truths and society generally is often anti-Christian. Simply because our culture is familiar does not make it any less dangerous to us.



The statistical analyses used to “prove” that Muslims will take over at some future date are usually flawed. For example, they often assume that immigration rates will continue at high levels, birth rates of future



We really should trust in Almighty God and not behave as if he is impotent.



generations will remain high for Muslims but low for others, and that western Muslims will not become secularised and effectively leave their faith. These are huge assumptions that are really just guesses. As I write we cannot accurately predict the results of the May 2015 general election never mind events decades into the future. Interestingly, the “experts” have not predicted most big world events. Think of the collapse of the Berlin Wall, the 2008 economic crisis, and 9/11 - who saw them coming? On the other hand confident predictions are usually useless - think of WMDs in Iraq!



While anti-Western violence and rhetoric makes the headlines, it is often a mask for internal political strife. We need to

realise that there is a battle for the future of Islam. In brief, there are alternatives that range from outward-looking modernising reforms (such as Turkey under Atatürk and the ideals of some reformers in the “Arab Spring”) to backward-looking ideas from the 7th century (e.g. the Taliban). This internal strife explains why Muslim militants kill more Muslims than Christians. We need to understand that most Muslims are not the perpetrators of violence and oppression but victims.



In Matthew 24 Jesus teaches us to expect

false religions, wars and persecution. He tells us this precisely so that we don't get blown off course.

We need to see the recent history of the West when serious persecution was rare and abnormal as not typical. Terrible though contemporary Islamic violence is, can we really say that it is worse than the horrors of the 20th century, for example, Hitler or Stalin or Mao Tse Tung or Pol Pot? We need to keep a sense of perspective and hear what Jesus says – expect these things and don't panic.



We also need to remember that our God is sovereign over the nations (see Psalm 47:8) and when they plot against him he laughs at them (see Psalm 2:4). We must, therefore, trust in him and not give way to fear. Perhaps the Muslims will take over, after all while only a minority are violent it is a missionary religion, but, on the other hand, who can say that God in his infinite wisdom will not bring extraordinary blessing and save many Muslims? We really should trust in Almighty God and not behave as if he is impotent. Already we are seeing that some Muslims are very disillusioned by current events and this has led to some coming to know the Saviour.

So if we are to expect false religions and wars and persecutions, and to trust in the Almighty God, what then should be our response to Islam and current events? Here are some ideas:

- Pray for and support practically, if possible, all who are oppressed and persecuted, especially Christians.

- Prayerfully develop a way of thinking that isn't a knee jerk reaction to the things you hear. Instead find comfort in the knowledge that God knows what he is doing.
- Learn to love Muslim people. Here in the UK the vast majority of Muslims are ordinary people trying to get by like everyone else and elsewhere many are poor and oppressed. They all need the Gospel;
- Seize the opportunity of Muslims living in the UK to reach out to them. Instead of worrying about them, share the Gospel with them. The Great Commission applies to all Muslims and not just Muslims living overseas. For advice or training on this subject you can contact me through the Swindon or Belfast or Edinburgh offices.

Finally, I am reminded of that great hymn by Arthur Campbell Aigner:

*God is working his purpose out
as year succeeds to year;
God is working his purpose out,
and the time is drawing near;
nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.*

So don't be frightened by current events, we have a great God who knows what he is doing – keep calm and think biblically.

PETER

A UFM worker with Muslims in the UK

WHY ME? WHY ME?

IS THERE NOT SOMEONE BETTER THAN ME TO RECEIVE THIS GIFT?

Since December 2013 we have been living and working in Chachas, an extremely remote Andean village in the south of Peru. On our arrival we were unsure whether we were going to be accepted by the local people and how we would have access to the local community to share the Gospel. But in no time at all we found ourselves teaching English at the local pre-school and secondary schools and even being invited to do the same in the neighbouring village. Our children have been amazing door openers!

We have had access to children between the ages of 1-18 years and working in the schools has provided us with amazing opportunities to get know the children, their families and the

teachers. We have been able to build friendships and trust which have opened up tremendous possibilities to share the Gospel. In addition, mainly through intrigue as to what we were doing and why, we have had nurses, council officials and other villagers asking us questions which have led to us being able to share the good news of Jesus with them.

Throughout the year we have taken every opportunity to share the gospel and this has been relatively easy for us because individuals have

initiated conversations that lead to questions about God and the Gospel. Just by living and working amongst people we have been able to bear witness to our faith and our desire to share with others the gospel that has transformed our lives. Many times we have been asked 'Why are you doing this?' The answer being, "God works miracles and he can work in your life too!"

As more and more people have been interested in learning more about the gospel, we have offered Bible introduction courses for the teachers, nurses and young people. These courses have been well attended because people are keen to find out more about our good and gracious God. We ran two parallel courses for six weeks and in the last week had a Christmas celebration with 'paneton' (sweet bread) and traditional hot chocolate. As a result three people committed their lives to Jesus.

Maribel, one of the teachers who accepted Jesus couldn't stop asking herself, '**Why me, why me? Isn't there someone better than me to receive this gift?**' She really battled with the idea that God in love sent





Jesus into this world and to the cross to receive her punishment and to free her from her sins. Once the Holy Spirit touched her heart and opened her eyes, she totally accepted the gift of salvation and cannot stop praising and thanking God!

Even though, at the beginning of our time in the village, we were unsure as to how God was going to lead us in developing a ministry, God had already planned and marked out that teaching English was going to be the tool. Amazing opportunities have opened up before us and, from there, relationships have been formed so that through the seeds that have been sown the Holy Spirit has transformed three precious lives. Only God knows how many other people he is working in, so that they may know their creator God and Jesus as their Saviour.



'Why are you doing this?' The answer being, "God works miracles and he can work in your life too!"

The task is not completed because there are still many more people in Chachas and in the surrounding villages who need to hear the true Gospel that is freely offered as the only means of salvation. Some still believe that in order to receive this precious gift they must themselves be worthy of it. Pray that they may come to understand the truth of the

gospel in Ephesians 2:8, *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."*

Please pray for our new sisters in Christ in Chachas; Maribel, Ines and Janeth, that they will grow as they read the Word.

Please also continue to pray for us as a family, especially as from March we will be in the UK and will not be returning to Chachas until March 2016.

EDUARDO, ESMÉ, LUIS AND LILIANA ZARATE



A WASTE OF TIME; AN ALCOHOLIC HIPPY; THE SON OF GOD!

These are just some of the responses we received when we asked students in Brussels, "Who do you think Jesus is?"

Anouncing the Good News of Jesus Christ" on campuses may have always been one of the GBU's main aims, but since 2009, when I joined the staff, there has often been little evidence of this in our activities. Also, over the past couple of years, the number of Christian students involved in our groups has decreased to the point where by last September, there were only 5 or 6 left in the whole of French-speaking Belgium. So, last semester, in the

student groups we focussed on praying for our non-Christian friends and for the campuses. As well as talking to Jesus about students, we decided we should try to talk to students about Jesus.

So, during the first week of December, we stood in the freezing cold wearing Santa hats and GBU t-shirts. We gave people sweets, asked them, "Who do you think Jesus is?" and invited them to our Christmas meal the following week. We didn't count them, but I reckon at least a third of the people

I spoke to said "Err, I've never thought about it." It's tragic that so many students have never even considered the identity of the most important human being who will ever live and yet exciting that, now, even if in a very small way, they have been challenged to think about him. Having thought briefly, the most common response was 'the Son of God', which would be great, except that the vast majority of students when asked what that meant, said "Nothing

really, it's just what the Catholic Church says." Clearly "confessing with your mouth" doesn't always equal "believing in your heart."

The theme of the Christmas event was, "We wish you a British Christmas." The plan was to have a meal, sing some carols and have a short talk about "Who is Jesus?" The meal turned out a little less traditional than expected when one of the ovens caught fire! One fire blanket, two extinguishers and a whole lot of smoke inhalation later, we managed to put it out, but had to order from Pizza Hut to replace the food! It wasn't a great start to the evening but, praise God, no one was hurt, the kitchen wasn't damaged and the event still went ahead. I hadn't expected any non-

Christians to come, but I'd hoped that if Christian students came and saw that it was good, maybe next time they would invite their friends. Oh me of little faith! There were at least 4 non-Christian students, 2 invited by friends in the GBU and 2 who came because of the questionnaires. They all heard that Jesus is Saviour and Lord. Who cares about a fire and a ruined meal?

We invited everyone who came to join us at the beginning of February for "l'Enquête." In Brussels, Louvain-La-Neuve and



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Liège, we are doing a series of seven Bible studies in the book of Luke, using UCCF's Uncover. The studies are designed for people who want to look at a source text and see for themselves who Jesus is. This will be our main GBU study, so we hope that there will be a mix of Christians and those who want to find out more. Even if no non-Christians come, we want to encourage the GBU students to use these studies one-to-one with non-Christian friends.

Being a Christian in Belgium

is hard and the work among students is slow. Through the events GBU did at Christmas, some students heard the Gospel and that is a wonderful thing, but none of them have, as yet, believed in Jesus as their Saviour. Praise God though for answers to prayer and that all he asks of us is to preach the Gospel faithfully. Please pray that many more students will hear the Gospel in Belgium and that they will trust Jesus as their Saviour and make him Lord of their lives.

LUCY HASLAM

LOVE IN ACTION IN SIERRA LEONE

Ebola: a small word with massive consequences. More than a year after emerging in West Africa, Ebola continues to be a human tragedy. Authorities and organisations were complacent, underestimating the outbreak initially, resulting in Ebola spreading “out of control.” Sierra Leone has the most cases.

International and government efforts to turn the tide against the epidemic are bearing some fruit. Most people are cautiously optimistic that the growth in the epidemic can be slowed, and that eventually the goal of zero cases will be achieved in 2015. Preventative measures include no handshakes, hugs, or body contact of any kind, all so contrary to the Sierra Leonean culture of friendly touch. Avoiding touch goes against human nature when someone you love is sick. Imagine being unable to wipe your child’s feverish brow, clean away vomit, wipe a tear, or change a dirty nappy.

Numbers dying from the secondary health and humanitarian crisis will likely eclipse the Ebola death toll. Many treatable diseases go untreated, and often, pregnant women are unable to access health care. Schools and all academic institutions

have been closed. Food prices are up 25%, and thousands of people require food aid. Sierra Leone was always a difficult place to be a child. Almost 1 in 5 children die before the age of five. 9 out of 10 girls undergo female genital mutilation. Children are involved in hard labour. There has been a very high rate of rape and sexual abuse. With schools shut there are more teenagers on the streets, and an increase in adolescent pregnancies. Across West Africa, there may be as many as 10,000 Ebola orphans. Ebola survivors, health workers, and orphans are stigmatised, and often shunned by their communities. Sometimes it’s hard to imagine a time when Ebola will be over, or what the aftermath will look like, yet we know that God is in control.

We have found that courage and caution go hand-in-hand. Yes, we are at war against Ebola, but the real war in Sierra Leone, the one God has called us to fight in, is the ongoing battle against darkness - Satan, sin and spiritual death. Jesus is right here in the midst of this battlefield against Ebola and against the devil. Jesus commands us to make disciples by reaching people who don’t yet have a relationship with God. We are to be his witnesses in this country.

People are dying every day; most Ebola victims have gone into a Christ-less eternity, and yet there are so few labourers for the harvest. Through God’s saving grace and mercy, we, who were destined for eternal damnation, have become his children. Christ was willing to come into our disease-infected sinful world, and rescue us. Christ’s love within us, and our deep gratitude to him compel us to act. Spiritually and physically, many people are in desperate need, providing us with opportunities to express Christ’s love through serving and caring for others. We can’t frantically try to help everyone in need, but we can start where we are, making ourselves available to the suffering people that God has placed in our lives.

As a church, and as Christ’s followers here, we wrestle through hard questions like, “How long O Lord?” or, “Why Sierra Leone, when the people have already suffered so much?” We wrestle with sorrow, injustice, and emotionally draining days. We pray together, study God’s Word together, and encourage each other to get out there and share with others who have never heard of the love of Christ, through our words and through our actions.



Christ was willing to come into our disease-infected sinful world, and rescue us. Christ's love within us, and our deep gratitude to him compel us to act.

UFM supporters are helping by interceding in prayer for the people of West Africa. There have also been practical ways of helping with the health and humanitarian crisis. We're working mainly in Freetown, but we have been able to visit up-country districts. Through people's generosity, families in quarantine have been provided with food, coal, hygiene and medical supplies, and children's activities. Pastors and students have been provided with extra funds to cope with

rising food prices. Children are more likely to break the Ebola rules: they are not used to washing their hands often, and they constantly want to touch people. So we've made it a priority to provide children with Ebola education resources, disinfectant soap, and water buckets. Ebola prevention resources and essential food supplies have been provided to other needy families and churches. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God

prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10). God made us and placed us here for a reason. The Spirit of God empowers us. Sierra Leone has been ravaged by war, poverty, corruption and disease, but hardships sometimes serve to advance the Gospel. Thank you for being part of what God is doing here in the midst of this crisis.

To be here at this time, and join people in their pain and distress, shows people how much we care, but more importantly, how much God loves them and desires them to know, love and obey him. Is the risk of being in Sierra Leone worth it? Definitely! We have the message of hope, of healing, saving, restoring grace to share.

JAYNE SMYTH



ITALY – A “GRAVEYARD” FOR MISSIONARIES

The population of Italy is 60 million people. 7% are true Catholics and 0.5% are Evangelicals. Italy never had a Reformation and has never had a spiritual revival. Italy today is characterized by atheism, spiritual darkness, spiritual oppression, the occult, vibrant materialism and humanistic secularism. Sadly the Christian Church is greatly divided.

Andrea trained at London Theological Seminary in 1990 and Emanuela trained with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Italy. They have 3 children.

CHURCH MINISTRY

Sola Grazia Church (www.chiesasolagrazia.it) is a church planting work that started in 2008 based in Mantua (population 250,000 people) which is in the northern industrial region of Italy, 30 minutes from Lake Garda.

We started the church with 2 families meeting in our home. We have been supported by a board of pastors from the UK and USA whose main purposes have been to encourage and visit us and to oversee the work we are doing. The first 3 years were very hard and discouraging. Sometimes we wanted to give up. We worked very hard in trying to make a lot of contacts and friends. From our experience it is not surprising that 95% of foreign missionaries leave Italy before the end of their third year!

Italians do not know anything about evangelical churches. Muslims and Jehovah's Witnesses are more familiar to them than biblical believers. Evangelicals are considered like a cult and people know that we do not believe in the Pope. Recently

I was talking with a man about the Gospel and I told him, "I am a pastor." He replied was, "Ah good! How many animals do you have?"

We have tried many different ways to reach out to the community. We have found that building relationships with people in a loving and friendly spirit, as Jesus did, is the best way to create opportunities to share the Gospel. We remember that Jesus was a friend to "sinners", he did not just know of them! He spent time with non-Christians. Becoming a friend means you need to share, get involved, help and listen to them as a good pastor, even when they are non-believers.

The Lord has been really gracious to us. He has blessed the work and now we have a committed group

of 40-50 people meeting on a Sunday. Each one is totally involved with the discipleship and evangelistic work. Some of the young families are struggling financially because of the economic problems in our country. Soon we will broadcast our church services online because we have found out that some contacts would love to come to church on Sunday but they would also like to see first what happens during the service. Many churches in Italy are also interested in following the teaching of the Sola Grazia Church.

CORAM DEO

Coram Deo (www.coramdeo.it) is a ministry for church planting in Italy, publications and national conferences. Andrea and Emanuela started this work in 1993 by faith and the Lord has enabled it to continue with great success. About 50 new titles have been translated and published. Speakers who have provided Bible teaching at Coram Deo conferences include Alistair Begg, Joel Beeke, Hywel R. Jones, Stuart Olyott, Andrew Davies, Mark Johnston, Paul Washer, John Woolley, Jerry Marcellino, Mark Neilly, Don Currin and Jim Elliff.

Each year Coram Deo organises 3 main national conferences. The last one, in November, on the theme of Sanctification was held in Sciacca in Sicily and was attended by 350 men and pastors. Many Pentecostals came because they wanted



Coram Deo ministry



Porto United team

to know more about biblical theology and preaching. We have found this to be a great open door for an amazing ministry to help and encourage men in an area where it is quite difficult to find non-charismatic churches.

PORTO UNITED CLUB AND SPORT MINISTRY

Sport is an amazing channel to make contact with people, kids and families. The Sola Grazia church has started this club to reach out our

community. Last year, about 50 non-churched kids joined the club because of the Christian emphasis and the love and kindness we share. Even the Mayor of the town has come to meet us in the church because he wanted to get to know us better because he said, "Everybody in town is talking about your church." Please pray that the contacts we are making with people of all ages will lead to them coming to know Jesus as their Saviour and Lord.

ANDREA ARTIOLI

We have found that building relationships with people in a loving and friendly spirit, as Jesus did, is the best way to create opportunities to share the Gospel.



Emanuela and Andrea Artioli

HOPE FOR CHILDREN ON THE STREETS OF BELÉM

Imagine what it's like to be sexually, emotionally or physically abused by those created by God to care for you most; feeling isolated, worthless, not able to tell anyone for fear of the consequences. Imagine what it's like to sleep on the streets of Belém not knowing if you will wake up, fearful of others who are also fighting to survive and will use whatever form of violence they need to get what they want or need. These are some realities faced by the precious children of ARCA.

For many people, working with street children or in general with those abused and or abandoned by their family, conjures romantic images of love given and received and happy endings all around as lives are transformed. However, it is

not always so satisfying. We do not see results quickly, if at all. All of us who serve with ARCA: 23 Brazilians and 4 European missionaries, count it a great privilege to do the Lord's work here in Belém, but we are very conscious that we are involved in a spiritual conflict. We "do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against ... the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." (Eph 6:12) The spiritual battle is very intense at times and we clearly see the devil's hold on many whom we seek to help as they treat the things of God lightly.

But how amazing it is to constantly see the grace and power of God as he answers our prayers, uses our human frailty and transforms lives; not only of our children but even of us workers.

The streets of Belém are a miserable home for anyone, but our street children prefer to live there than in their abusive homes. At the beginning of 2014, in answer to prayer, the Lord enabled us to re-open our drop-in centre with a godly team of trained young volunteers and he sent our street children to us. Through daily contact in our centre we share the word of God, they can shower, have lunch and enjoy leisure activities. In this way we gain their confidence and understand their situation better. This year we have been able to work on a deeper level with around 7 boys, having good contact with some families and working more closely with social services which is always a challenge in a system that is strong on theory but weak in practice.



The streets of Belém streets are a miserable home for anyone, but our street children prefer to live there than in their abusive homes.





At the end of 2014 our two homes housed 4 boys and 9 girls aged between 13 and 18. Every child in the homes is special. Jo McMillen, missionary and 'educator' at the boys' home, faces the challenge of dealing with children whose behaviour is difficult and complicated because of past abuse. She works 48 hour shifts each week and often experiences disrupted sleep. The emotional demand is heavy at times when you know what a child has suffered. There is also the heartbreak of seeing them constantly rejecting Christ and the gospel which is the very thing they need and which can transform their broken lives and hearts.

But God 'who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone his light into the hearts of at least two of our young people who have given their lives to Christ. Filipe, 16, is at the boys' home, often talks to the home educators about spiritual things and is a blessing to all working with ARCA. Val, 19, is at the girls' home and, despite being abused by her father for years, has spoken of her forgiveness of him in obedience to God.

What a privilege and joy it is to see the Lord clearly



working in the lives of these two young people!

Also what satisfaction to be part of positive experiences and building good memories through trips to the river and teaching how to work and play together through games at the home. Then our cup ran over when, at the end of 2014, four of our children were able to return to family members.

PAULA HARRIS

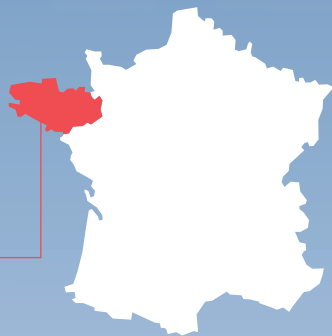


PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *the conversion of our children: in the homes and on the street.*
- *us as workers: for wisdom, perseverance and the Lord's heart of love.*
- *ARCA finances: that local government money will arrive to pay for our children's care.*



PERSEVERING MINISTRY IN BRITTANY



In the last week of December a weekly newspaper featured an article listing 10 points of good news for Guingamp in 2015. The article mentioned building work at the railway station and a new business which will bring 95 jobs when it opens in June. Then there's the historic football match in mid February for the only remaining French team, Guingamp, which is still in this year's Europa League. People will be touched in differing degrees by such points, according to their personal needs and interests. As we look forward to 2015, our prayer is that many people will come to

realise that the good news they most need, the best news of all, is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As Peter reminds us in 1 Peter 1:24-25, "The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord remains forever. And that word is the Good News that was preached to you".

In the contemporary religious and social climate in which we live, we are increasingly aware of the importance of sharing God's Word by as many different means as possible. Practically speaking, that means using every opportunity to share the message of the Gospel

even if the visible results are not as encouraging as we would like. One thing that can be frustrating is that often folk seem to take two steps forwards then three steps backwards, sometimes followed by a period of silence before contact can be renewed. In recent years, activities organized have included series of informal evangelistic meetings, concerts, conferences, children's afternoons and public meetings, as well as personal witness and invitations to Sunday services. The church web site is regularly visited and has led some to attend services.



The market work alternates between Guingamp (fortnightly) and 4 other towns in the area. The Summer Teams that have joined with the church every 2 years since 2007 have been times of special blessing and encouragement. The recent visit of the Operation Centurion team that came to replace the damaged church roof was also a great encouragement. It was an opportunity to witness and to chat and build relationships with curious neighbours who were impressed by the efficiency of the team. Not forgetting that opportunities to take funeral services have provided openings to share the Gospel message with more unbelievers than any pre-planned event. A little time ago Emmanuel was approached by a man who told him that he had been present at a funeral service he'd led a few years ago and that he still clearly remembered the sermon. We pray that God's Word will change lives.

Ministry in Brittany requires perseverance and tenacity. Emmanuel works at maintaining good, clear

"The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord remains forever. And that word is the Good News that was preached to you".



relationships with the local authorities and during the debate on same-sex marriage expressed the position of the evangelical church to the deputy mayor. A great part of the witness is based on relationships that are being built up over the years. It is within a climate of confidence that someone is most likely to accept an invitation to a meeting or a tract. We have seen this recently with the distribution of biblical calendars leading up to Christmas. Different church members were encouraged

by how many calendars they were able to give out. For example, Magali, who is an art/mosaic teacher, was thrilled when 99% of her adult class accepted one. Another believer, Christiane, has been witnessing to a neighbour for some time. What a joy it was when, not only did she request a Bible, but also came to a Bible study and accepted that we pray for her.

Such encouragements motivate us to continue sowing seeds and trusting God to add his blessing in his time. The growth of a nucleus of local believers in the Word is also cause for praise. Please pray that God will keep us faithful in sowing and persevering as we seek to share the Good News of Jesus with the people of Brittany.

EMMANUEL AND MARIA HARTIEL



NEW TO UFM

During the past year we have been very encouraged by a number of new long term missionaries who have joined us. Those for whom we have given only their first names are serving in sensitive areas or ministries.



GREECE

Tim & Nicky Sandell

Home Church: Christ Church, Cambridge

Tim & Nicky with their baby boy, Joshua, will be moving to Greece in April of this year, and will be serving in partnership with IFES.



SLOVENIA

Lydia Adams

Home Church: Welsh Evangelical Church, Aberystwyth

Lydia is serving in student ministry in Slovenia in partnership with IFES.



UK

Amir & Connie

Amir & Connie, who are currently raising support, are working amongst a minority people in the UK and Western Asia.



If you would like to receive regular news about any of these missionaries, please send an email to admin@ufm.org.uk

ONEHUNDREDFOLD

John & Janice Jenkins

Home Church: Family Christian Worship Centre, Lancaster, USA

John is serving with the One Hundred Fold team in building wifi devices to distribute Gospel media.



Dan & Sharon Pinkham

Home Church: First Baptist Church of Weddington, USA

Dan is seconded from Wycliffe Bible Translators to serve with the One Hundred Fold Team. Dan is currently on medical leave.



FRANCE

Christopher & Laura de la Hoyde

**Home Church:
The Crowded House**

Christopher & Laura and their children Elsa, Jethro, Zachary and Owen will be moving to Paris during August, working with churches with a vision to church plant in the Paris region.



IVORY COAST

Fidel & Yvette Tchoumou
Kenton Evangelical Church

Fidel is involved in evangelistic ministry in villages in the Sassandra region, Yvette works with women and children. Both of them teach in Sassandra Bible School. They have two girls, Sara and Esther, who are home schooled by Yvette.



MALAWI

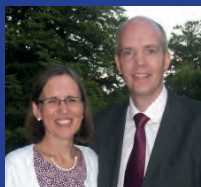
Lee & Fai Furney

**Home Church:
St George's,
Dagenham**



Lee is pastoring an International Church in Malawi and Fai is involved in the women's and children's work. They have a little boy named Titus.

WELCOME TO ELINOR MAGOWAN



Elinor has recently taken up her post as our Women's Pastoral Worker. Elinor lives in Reading where her husband is a

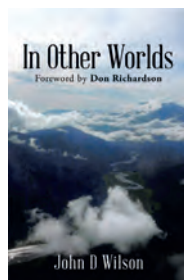
pastor at Carey Baptist Church. David and Elinor have 2 daughters Angharad (18) and Dilys (16). Elinor has served on the UFM Council for the past 18 months. She will work for 3 days a week and will be a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

**NEW
BOOK**

IN OTHER WORLDS

John D Wilson

John has written a fascinating book about his life and missionary experience with Gloria amongst the Yali people of Papua. It gives a valuable insight into the way God calls his people to cross-cultural ministry and equips them for the task even in the remotest places in the world.



The book is available from your local Christian bookshop and online, including a Kindle edition.

SUMMER TEAMS

In 2015 we are planning Summer Teams to the following countries:

South Africa	June/July	Children's Clubs & Practical Work
France	July	Children's Clubs & Outreach
Greece (with IFES)	July	Outreach to Tourists on a Greek Island
Ivory Coast	July	Children's Clubs
Brazil	July/August	Youth Work & Practical Work
Hungary	July/August	Holiday Club/English Club
Moldova	August	Practical Work & Outreach to adults at an institution
Southern Ireland	August	Children's Club & Outreach
Thailand	August	Student Outreach

We are also partnering with **United Beach Missions** on the following Beach Teams:

France	5 teams in various locations		
Italy	July	Portugal	July
Spain	July	Switzerland	July



WHATS



Called to Serve

13 – 15 March

Hebron Hall Christian Centre,
Dinas Powys, near Cardiff

This is a conference for anyone
wanting to know more about
serving in mission.

For more information
email: debbie@ufm.org

Scottish Conference

20 – 22 March

Atholl Centre, Pitlochry

Bible Ministry: Rev. Martin Allen
(retired minister of Chryston Church)

For further information
email: iain@ufm.org

Irish Spring Conference

28 – 30 March

The Lodge Hotel Coleraine

Bible Ministry:
Pastor David Magowan
(Carey Baptist Church, Reading)

For further information
email: gillian@ufm.org

Family Conference

27 – 31 July

Hothorpe Hall,
near Market Harborough

Bible Ministry:
Rev Rupert Bentley-Taylor

For further information
email: debbie@ufm.org

COMING

March

Edward & Esme Zarate
from Peru to UK

GOING

January

Fidel and Yvette Tchoumou
to Ivory Coast

Marcelo and Holly Vieira
to Brazil

March

Evelyn McCartney to Brazil



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