



ufm
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4 CORNERS

MAGAZINE OF UFM WORLDWIDE | AUTUMN 2015



CREATIVE HANDS

Transforming lives in
Bairro das Flores

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IN ATHENS,
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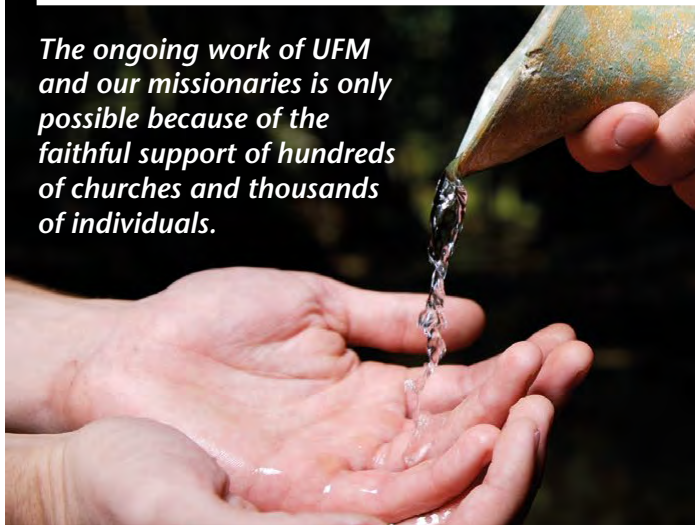
24 News bites

It is exciting to see another edition of 4 Corners hot off the press, this time with stories from UFM missionaries in Brazil, Greece, Kenya, Eurasia, Mongolia, Ivory Coast, South Africa, Thailand, France, Italy and Moldova. The stories of the joys and struggles of people reflecting God's truth and love in cross-cultural contexts all over the world.

You will see, too, that this edition, as is usually the case with our Autumn magazine, includes a summary of our 2014/15 finances (pages 22-23). The financial overview highlights that last year we experienced a deficit in our General Fund – the fund that resources the UK Staff Team and infrastructure – and this is something that I would like to reflect on with you for a moment.

The work of UFM continues to grow. We reported to our Annual General Meeting in July that last year over 20 new long-term missionaries joined the mission bringing the total to over 180. In addition there are nearly 100 children and young people under 18 in the mission family! We are also actively involved with about 50 short-termers each year. This exciting growth brings with it the need for additional expenditure and the Treasurer's report identifies that our expenditure was up by about 14% (largely due to the appointment of additional staff filling existing vacancies and the creation of new roles) and that our income was down by about 17% (largely due to fewer legacies coming in).

The ongoing work of UFM and our missionaries is only possible because of the faithful support of hundreds of churches and thousands of individuals.



As a faith mission it is our experience that, in God's providence, there is an ebb and flow to our financial situation and that we are invited, in the years of plenty and in the lean years, to rejoice in God's greatness and goodness and to live in joyful dependence on him. It is precisely out of this confidence in God and joyful dependence on him that we are praying that God will continue to enable the work to grow and that he will provide the resources that are needed to facilitate this worldwide Gospel ministry.

We would love to see last year's deficit made up and sufficient funds coming into the General Fund (not a very inspiring name...perhaps we should call it something like 'The Making Mission Happen Fund' or, in the style of William Carey 'The Holding the Rope Fund') to provide for what we are already doing and to help us to expand the team here in the UK and in the USA. Please do pray along with

us that we will constantly live in the knowledge of God's greatness and goodness and that we will see him provide for all our needs and also that the various avenues that are being explored to cultivate new streams of income will be blessed by him.

If you would like to support us financially there are a number of ways in which this can be done.



Giving online

You can donate one-off donations online using your credit or debit card via PayPal. Please specify that your donation is for the General Fund (www.ufm.org.uk/how-to-give).



Regular Giving

To make regular gifts Standing Orders can be set up. Please contact us providing your name, address and letting us know that you would like to support the General Fund. We will supply you with our bank details and a unique reference for you to quote.



Giving by Cheque

You can make one-off gifts or regular payments to us by cheque. Please make cheques payable to 'UFM Worldwide' and enclose a note giving your name and address and stating that the gift is for the General Fund.



Charity Voucher

If you already have an account with CAF, Stewardship Services, Sovereign Giving, or other similar organisations, you can make payments to us through your account by voucher or

standing instruction. Please arrange for the payments to be made to 'UFM Worldwide' with a comment stating that you would like the gift to be used for the General Fund.



Gift Aid

If you pay Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax in the UK you may wish to give under Gift Aid, this increases the value of your donations to UFM at no extra cost to yourself (Please download a Gift Aid Declaration form from our website or ask for one from one of our offices, complete it and post it to us).



Legacies

Over the years, the Lord has graciously provided for the work through the generous giving of those who have remembered UFM in their wills. For further information on this please contact one of our offices.



Donors living in Ireland

can give using iMap through Stewardship Ireland.

The ongoing work of UFM Worldwide and our missionaries is only possible because of the faithful financial support of hundreds of churches and thousands of individuals. We are so grateful to the Lord for the way in which he meets our needs as you partner with us.

I hope you find this issue of 4 Corners inspiring. Many thanks for your fellowship and partnership in the Gospel.

JOHN-MARK



GOD IS TRANSFORMING LIVES IN BAIRRO DAS FLORES



Projetto Mãos Que Criam (Creative Hands Project) began in 2006 with the aim of sharing the gospel and improving the daily lives of people in *Bairro das Flores* (Flowers Estate). *Bairro das Flores* is a community built around a garbage dump, and is largely marginalized by its town, Benevides.

Espaço Emanuel is the church established in 2012 to offer Bible teaching and study and discipleship to anyone who wants to know more about Jesus Christ. We are praying that the Lord will use us to create a safe and welcoming haven for anyone seeking him. Since we first became involved in the work, we've been struck by people's desperate search for hope. This is a challenge because Satan capitalizes upon their despair and is quick to offer counterfeit hope in the

form of false idols, doctrines, and beliefs; such as purchasing and using a soap sold by a certain denomination that can wash away your sins, or that rubbing garlic on your doorframe can keep evil spirits out, or that offering popcorn or fruit to the spirits can gain favour and protection.

The deep-felt longing for hope is also a great opportunity for us to "always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have." (1 Peter 3:15) We praise the Lord for the work he is doing in *Espaço Emanuel* church and the opportunities we have to share true hope with people who have none. The congregation is small, but by God's grace, some people have already come to know the Lord. These Christians want to be transformed by the

Holy Spirit, and to love others in the community through both service and the sharing of the Gospel. We rejoice to see lives being transformed by Jesus!

Elinice began participating in the soccer training 18 months ago. She showed immediate interest in hearing more about the Lord by joining a Bible study offered after training for those who want to learn more about the Word of God. She had the opportunity to ask questions. One of her first questions was if we could teach her how to find certain books of the Bible. She'd been to a church before, but always felt embarrassed to ask how everyone seemingly knew where to turn when the pastor gave a reference. She said she read the Bible at home, but struggled to understand what it meant.

A short time later, Elinice started attending *Espaço Emanuel* and as she got to know us, she shared with us her battle with depression after the death of her infant son several years before. In May she told us that she knew the time was coming when she needed to make a decision about what she was hearing about Jesus. In June we rejoiced when, in one of the church services, Elinice publically professed her faith in Jesus as her Saviour. She immediately began asking that we all pray for the salvation of her long-time boyfriend and their family. She was once desperate for hope; now she desperately wants others to know the hope she has in Jesus.

Dona Zefa and her family practiced witchcraft and, after contracting an eye disease that was never treated, she became blind. Dona Zefa struggled so much with the loss of her sight and became interested in the God of the Bible who had the power to heal the blind. She started attending *Espaço Emanuel* church and gave her life to Jesus. She says this is more important than her physical sight because God has opened her spiritual eyes to see the truth of who he is. She came to us and said she wanted to be baptized so she could publically acknowledge to her friends and family that she now belongs to the Lord. She was baptized in the Amazon River in May 2014.

Nako is a young man who started coming to the men's group because of his interest



We praise the Lord for the work he is doing in Espaço Emanuel church and the opportunities we have to share true hope with people who have none.



in soccer. Since childhood Nako has worked on the garbage dump. He would arrive home with skin burnt and sometimes blistered by the sun, and with cuts and bruises from jumping on and off the trucks. He shared that when he was on the streets looking through trash during the hottest time of the day, no one ever offered him a drink of water, even when he, with shame, asked for some. Nako says he was so humiliated he never wanted to go into town because everyone knew he went through their trash.

Nako was impacted by the fact that when we have devotions with people who work on the garbage dump, we bring water, juice, and soda to give to the workers. The Lord used this simple offering to impact Nako. He felt like the message about a saving God

was important because he was shown the dignity of being given something cold to drink when he was thirsty.

Nako decided he wanted to learn about this God who was powerful enough to change hearts and who loves all people – even those who live in humiliation. He began attending the church, proclaiming that he wanted a better life for his son and his girlfriend. In June, after almost two years of consistently hearing the Gospel and asking questions, he took Marcelo aside after one of the services and said, “Everywhere I go, I hear God telling to me to accept Jesus. He is telling me to do that right now.” Marcelo had the privilege of being with him when Nako prayed to ask the Lord to be his Saviour.

MARCELO AND HOLLY VIEIRA

SOWING THE WORD AMONGST STUDENTS IN ATHENS

Working full time in ministry is always a privilege, but being in Athens has the added bonuses of taking part in something quite new – IFES Greece – and seeing the current crisis evolve from up close. Being in Athens, but not

from Athens, has meant that our lives have not been hit the way that most Greek people's have, for which we are grateful. To be able to live and work here while the world's media have been focused on the city has been fascinating.



In some ways it has been a rather schizophrenic experience. On the one hand, life goes on as normal. Cafes, shops, buses, classrooms have all continued largely as normal, with the occasional blip for a strike. Even the recent capital controls imposed as a result of the July referendum only had the effect of increasing queuing time at ATMs. On the other hand, the word on the street has been about little else. The scale of the economic and political woes facing Greece means, unsurprisingly, that our



friends and neighbours are preoccupied with just how bleak the future might be.

There are a couple of things that trouble me a little about all this. One is to do with reality versus perception. Given the dreadful state of the nation's economy, how are we able to keep going seemingly as normal, in Athens at least? Are the violinists playing on as the Titanic sinks? Is the reality quite different from what the leaders across Europe are saying? Are the real costs being stored up for the future? Are the real hardships simply being faced by people other than those we know? Time will tell and yet the fact that life appears to be continuing as normal means that what you have been reading in the papers is not all there is to it.

The other issue is how Christians respond. If it is true that we are waiting for a better city (which we are!) then as churches and as individuals

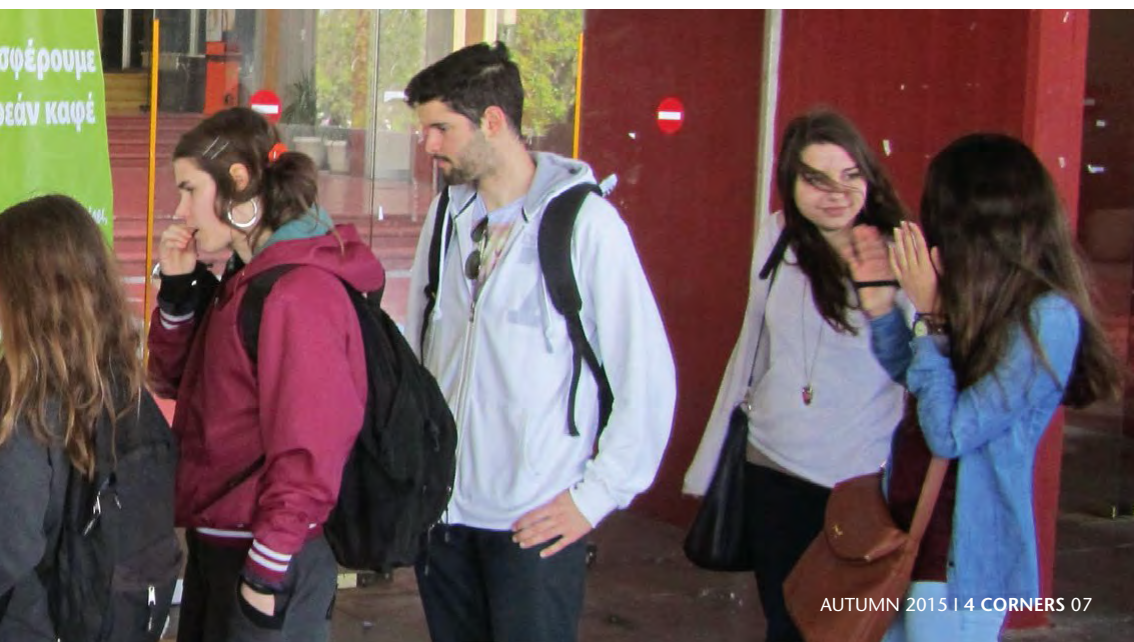
our attention should probably not be quite so taken up as it appears to be with the rising and falling of a nation's fortunes. God has given us a task – all of us – which is to build his church, and that task continues regardless of what the European powers-that-be determine about how Greece should run her affairs. I wonder if this means that what we need to hear in the midst of instability is the reminder that, of all people, Christians should be the calmest and most steadfast, given our hope and security elsewhere.

With all this going on, we're grateful that student ministry has been able to continue largely unhindered. Not only that, but the past academic year has seen real progress as we work towards the establishment of a national, evangelistic, disciple-making IFES movement. There are now staff (at least part-time) in three cities rather than just Athens, and there are groups

(of at least two students!) in six, possibly seven cities. We have even heard reports of a couple of conversions as a result of personal witness.

There is still much to do, but gradually the students we work with are gaining confidence that God does his work by his Spirit through his Word as his people live and speak for his Son – in his time. We are particularly pleased that Georgia in Thessaloniki and Vasilis in Athens will be joining us as part-time interns this year, and that UFM missionaries Tim and Nicky Sandell have settled in Volos. The search goes on for a long-term national director, and for part-time staff in two other cities, but the pieces are falling into place for a movement increasingly effective in mobilising small numbers of believers to go about the task of sowing the Word patiently and faithfully to his glory.

JONATHAN CLARK





THE JOY OF TEACHING THEOLOGY IN KENYA

Teaching theology in Africa (first in Nigeria for 15 years and now in Kenya for 15 years) has been... well, many words could be used, but 'fascinating' is one of them! Currently my wife and I live with two of our boys in Nairobi. The older three have left home and scattered across the world: one in Europe (Holland), one in North America and one in Asia (South Korea). I am teaching at what used to be NEGST (Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology) but is now AIU (Africa International University), which not only continues to teach theology, but also offers degrees in various non-theological subjects (e.g. IT, Business Studies etc.).

So here am I, from my British culture, trying to explain to African students, who

are themselves from several countries and many different cultural backgrounds, the teaching of the Bible that was written in various cultures over a period of about 1,500 years. It's quite a challenge; but, usually, a delight. The times in the classroom are always interesting. The students are mainly pastors, but also chaplains, youth workers, Sunday School teachers and "ordinary" Christians who just want to learn more than they can in their churches. They vary in age, although the average is late 30s or early 40s, and academic ability. Some from South Sudan, for example, struggle with English. The three hour long classes are quite traditional – I talk a lot, they ask me questions, I ask them questions, and there are often lively discussions.

The subject matter is glorious. I teach theology

courses; the theology of God, of man and sin, of Christ and salvation (who is Jesus and what did he come to do?), of the Holy Spirit, of the Church and Last Things. Some students I get to teach *all* these courses to; that's over 200 hours in the classroom with them, and then I get to set them a few hundred hours' worth of assignments, where I "make" them read wonderful stuff by the best authors. Sadly, then, I have to mark all their assignments – which are way too many when there are over 40 in the class. So, I have a real chance to make a difference in their thinking: to hammer home into their heads, and hopefully into their hearts and wills, the great truths of God (his sovereignty, holiness, grace, etc. etc. etc.), and his purposes with men and women. The last lecture was on "regeneration" which

gave the opportunity for a detailed look at John chapter 3 and its teaching on the new birth. How radical a teaching that is for these students (and through them, for their congregations), when so often in the churches here, little is heard of God's sovereign work of grace and the radical change that brings! And there is *so much* that is fundamental to the gospel, but which is largely unknown and untaught in the churches here. And all the time, no matter what the subject, the aim is to search the Scriptures together, to look at what the Bible says *in context*, ah, what a key phrase, and a new idea to many, and to urge them to believe the truth, to live it and to teach it to others.

One particularly encouraging student over the last couple of years has been Martin. He is a man in his late 40s, has been a pastor for over 20 years and is currently head of a Pentecostal denomination. A while back he was in the "Theology of Man and Sin" course I was teaching. We looked at, among other things, man in the image of God, the relationship between men and women,

the nature and extent of sin, the effects of sin, total depravity, indwelling sin and mortification! He wrote and told me how it had affected him:

"This course has completely transformed me and my ministry. I've never before realised that sin affects all aspects of our personality – our minds, our hearts, our consciences and our wills; and that even good things, if done with wrong motives, are not pleasing to God. I now understand what indwelling sin is and how Christians must and can, by the grace of God, be 'putting sin to death'. This teaching has enabled me to make sense of so much of what I've been seeing over the last 20 years in my work as a pastor."

How wonderful that he had come to see these things – but how sad that he had been a pastor for so long before he understood them! Once a month one of his responsibilities is to hold a seminar to train the other preachers in the denomination. It seems he takes the notes from my classes and teaches the preachers what he himself

has been learning, hopefully making it clearer and more relevant to the Kenyan situation than I can!

Another student – a mother of 4 young girls – sent a text: *"Just to acknowledge the reading for assignment 1. I am speechless... The book, 'Jesus, Suffering Servant, Sovereign Lord' has totally changed me and brought healing and understanding. God bless you sir and your family. Amen."*

So here we are, by the grace of God, in Nairobi; with its ludicrous driving, armed robbers, terrorist threats and immense social problems. But, also by the grace of God, we are very happy to be here and pray that something of what we are doing is helping to extend the kingdom of God in this fascinating country of Kenya.

MARTIN BUSSEY



THE GRACE THAT TRANSFORMS ➤

Every culture has a different take on hospitality, but few of us have a prepared answer to whether we'd prefer that our host lashed us with *oak* or with *birch* twigs. It turns out that this literally agonising choice is an important part of the Russian-style banya (sauna) experience. Going to the banya together is the favourite way for men to socialise in the former Soviet country where we live – Christians included. In fact, one of our church elders who lives in the

countryside during the winter months regularly hosts groups of guys from the church at his banya. The dreaded moment arrived when I was invited to man up, overcome my inhibitions and join them. I'm glad I did though – going regularly has given me an invaluable opportunity to get to know him much better and learn about the ministry that the Lord has entrusted to him and his wife.

Over the past 8 years Dima and his wife Vera* have opened up their home to over 200 young men who

have come to live with them for a time, in order to break free of drug addiction. At any one time they have between 5 and 8 men staying with them. In the winter they live 40 km from the city in a home which they have been gradually building as funds have allowed. From May to September they all decamp to an island in the local river, where they work building summer houses for city dwellers, and the earnings fund their ministry throughout the year. The men are unskilled so Dima works hard to train them up and helps them develop social skills.



Each morning begins with Bible reading together, then a full working day and a meal and evening devotion. They all bundle into the van to come together to the Sunday morning church service each week.

Dima's own life experience gives him unique insight into the kinds of contexts that their guests come from. He describes growing up surrounded by the atmosphere of sin; as a 15 year-old he witnessed his alcoholic step-father murder his mother, by 16 he was involved in crime and spent 4 years in prison. In the free-fall post-Soviet chaos he was immersed in gangster culture and was eventually sent to prison in Siberia for another 2 years for drug use. It was there in 1995 that he first heard the Gospel and became a Christian.

We think Vera is amazing – coming from a far more conventional non-Christian background, she married Dima after his second time in prison and in 2001 they joined a church together.

She supported him first in running a small group for addicts in the city and has now thrown herself fully into their 24/7 ministry. Among other challenges, she is in totally male company and far from friends in the city for most of the week. Visits from church family are therefore very important.

Dima and Vera are tougher than most, but they still need support – they have had a really tough season of disappointments with a high turnover of guests, and their summer earnings this year won't support them through the winter due to inflation, and they face some significant upcoming capital costs. Please pray with us that the local church

will respond with more committed and consistent prayer support and sacrificial giving to this vital ministry. For our part, Dima has asked us to help them to establish an outreach to the parents/carers/friends of their guests – possibly a weekly small group. Please pray for wisdom in the planning of this, and that generally we'd get to know Dima and Vera more deeply and truly encourage them in their walk with the Lord and in their strategic ministry.

And in case you're ever faced with the choice, birch twigs are best – oak is far too knobbly.

S & V, EURASIA

**Names have been changed*




Summer house/builder's yard on the island



View from the island to the city

The dreaded moment arrived when I was invited to man up, overcome my inhibitions and join them.

A GOSPEL DREAM FOR MONGOLIANS



In my dream, I saw a small army of strong knights mounted on sturdy horses,” Bold said, explaining the desire he carries in his heart to see churches planted and growing in Inner Mongolia. “They stood waiting,” he continued, “with their eyes fixed on the southern horizon. The land beyond lay in deep darkness and the people there lived in fear. But every now and then the knights saw a dim light piercing the blackness. Glancing at one another they nodded, knowing they must move forward and strengthen the lights

until together, they burned brighter and banished the darkness.”

Bold’s dream communicates the desire many Mongolian believers have to see the Mongolian diaspora come to know Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Scattered from the Middle East to the furthest corner of Russia the diaspora largely live in the darkness. Descendants of the Outer Mongolians, they revere their cultural heritage and warmly embrace the arrival of the modern-day Mongolian knights. Travelling light these knights move

quietly and quickly to Siberia and Pakistan, China and Afghanistan.

Ones and twos, threes and fours are choosing to live in the tough places and travel to remote locations. With rucksacks on their backs and Bible in hand they step out relying on God and asking him to direct their steps. They watch and listen, joining God in his work of bringing pockets of Mongolians to faith in Jesus.

One, along with an international team, is working on the first translation of a Bible into the native

tongue of a tribe who have barely heard the gospel. Tumerbaatar and Doogi pastor churches amongst the Buriat of Siberia, while Nara has seen a church and a new missionary initiative come to birth among the Hazara people. It is exciting and daring to see these “hot-hearted Mongolians,” take God’s Word to previously unreached towns and villages.

There is fruit, and lives are being changed by the gospel, but there are also challenges both on the mission field and back home in Mongolia.

Mongolian missionaries serve with great zeal and enthusiasm, but when they become tired and worn they do not easily find refreshment and encouragement. Others struggle to feel comfortable under the restrictions placed on them by the countries they serve in. Some get frustrated by the lack of interest towards the gospel, and most wrestle with a general lack of resources.

At home, Outer Mongolia too is changing. The traditional nomadic herding lifestyle is being abandoned for the promised comfort of urbanisation in the cities. Ulaanbaatar is expanding and the population is growing. People want a better life; they want to live beyond poverty. Young people want a good education and they want to have a good job. Naturally such trends impact the church and some Christians find their focus moving away from the simplicity of



following God. Consequently pastors strive to encourage their congregations to keep their desire to grow as followers of Christ alive, while remembering the place of evangelism and mission in the life of the church.

It feels oxymoronic, like two opposites existing together in the same sentence. The budding new mission movement fervent to reach the lost sent by a church that is itself battling with the pressures of a developing society. Is it normal? I am not sure, but it appears entirely biblical and reminds us that all of us involved in the life of the church and, by extension, the work of missions, are always learning and growing. When God is building his church there appears to be much mess, much opposition but with God’s enabling the building continues anyway. He has called us and others to strengthen Mongolian mission leaders and pastors so that, together, we can serve God faithfully and watch the light of His gospel bring life into the lives of those who are in the darkness.

M and G



Bold’s dream communicates the desire many Mongolian believers have to see the Mongolian diaspora come to know Christ as their Lord and Saviour.



GOSPEL MINISTRY IN IVORY COAST

The Tchoumou family consists of Fidel (Ivoirian), Yvette (Welsh) and Sara and Esther who are a wonderful mixture of both. We live in Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), West Africa and are based at Sassandra on the south coast looking out every day on the Atlantic Ocean. For Yvette it is "home" because she spent her early childhood here. We work in collaboration with The Union of Evangelical Churches of Ivory Coast (UEESO-CI).

After seven years in the pastoral ministry serving 4 churches we felt our vision moving more towards evangelism and teaching, so we came to Sassandra and are based at the Bible School site. When there are students at the Bible School we are both on the teaching rota.

This last year there have been no students. Trained folk are lacking in our churches, yet the churches aren't sending folks to be trained as they don't support them. We are both involved in our local church. Fidel preaches and takes Bible studies. Yvette is involved with the ladies' ministry and Sunday school.

Fidel's main role is evangelism. His main aim is to encourage local churches through working with their pastors and members to be involved in evangelism on a daily one-to-one basis as well as "mass" evangelism. He teaches the church folk, many of whom just don't know how to evangelise, to share the Gospel message. Together they do door-to-door and then show a film followed by an appeal. The pastor and the church

members are then responsible for the follow-up. One of the main challenges is for pastors to respond and ask Fidel to come and help them.

Fidel was also giving a weekly 'talk' on local radio, but at the moment this has come to a standstill. He still pops into the radio station to remind them that he is ready willing and available!

He also partners with Pastor Kone, who lives further north in Ivory Coast. They both evangelise Muslims and teach and encourage Christians converted from a Muslim background. He usually joins Pastor Kone once or twice a year for a 3-4 week block. Islam is becoming more widespread, but we are also seeing conversions. The use of the Jesus film in Doula, and amongst other language groups, is having a real impact. Through the film people

hear the words of Jesus in their own language.

Fidel (with 2 others) has also recently started going into the local prison, which was built for 150 but houses over 200. He visits once a week early on a Monday morning for 1 hour where he preaches. It has been encouraging so far that about 100 “hang around” to listen. He plans to continue to visit from time to time and to take practical gifts; toiletries and basic food.

Yvette is involved in ladies’ ministry and is usually one of two main speakers at the two Women’s Camps held each summer. She also trains pastors’ wives and other female leaders in the church. She is a leader and organizer in children’s work at the two camps held each summer. She teaches in the local Sunday School and also links up with Pastor Rhiffen in training Sunday school teachers for one week at least once a year. Pastor Rhiffen’s heart’s desire is to be in full time children’s ministry but because of lack of support he is pastoring a church.

Yvette’s main daily role is the home-schooling of Sara (10) and Esther (8). We have a nice big classroom. Each day we start at 8am and finish at 1.30pm. The girls enjoy getting in their uniform, but don’t always enjoy schoolwork! This is probably the biggest challenge for Yvette – being both Mum and Teacher. She is ready to give up the role if anyone else wants it! This year we have wi-fi, so, hopefully, this will help. They are both still primary age and we are

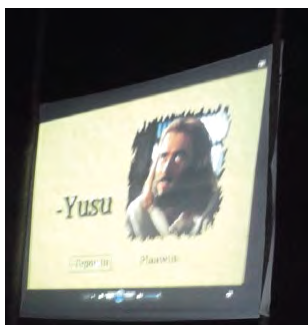


The girls enjoy getting in their uniform, but don’t always enjoy schoolwork! This is probably the biggest challenge for Yvette – being both Mum and Teacher.

looking to add afternoon sessions in art/crafts, French (whilst they are bi-lingual, they can’t read in French), science experiments and sport.

We are seeing a slight change in the opportunities for Christian events but it isn’t as straightforward as has been in the past. We are praying for peace in the country because elections are due on 25 October and tension and rumours are beginning to creep in. Please pray for us and for the Christians and churches in Ivory Coast.

YVETTE WILLIAMS



SERVING SHORT TERM

A growing number of people are applying to UFM for short-term service. We work with them to arrange a significant short-term assignment taking into account their personal circumstances. In this article 3 people who have served short-term share something of their experiences.



TEACHING AND STREET CHILDREN IN AMAZONAS, BRAZIL

Earlier this year I spent 5 months in Brazil. I arrived in Manaus in February 2015 where I worked in an International School during the week and on Friday afternoons travelled to the small river town of Manacapuru that Jason, Andrea and Lucy Murfitt call home. Every weekend I assisted with their youth work - the Saturday morning Bible club and the new Friday evening youth group of which it was a real honour to attend the first meeting! I also accompanied Jason and Andrea on pastoral visits to families in the small river communities. After 3 months in a rural setting, it was a big contrast to move 1000 miles downriver to the busy city of Belém to work at the ARCA

street children project with Paula Harris, Jo McMillan and Mo Sharratt.

I had prayed for good communication but knew no Portuguese when I arrived in Brazil. The Lord provided accommodation with a Brazilian host family and contact with a group of Brazilian girls, none of whom spoke English. Full immersion into Brazilian culture and language made me feel pretty helpless and childish at first, but proved a wonderful way to learn and practice Portuguese. I had several opportunities to witness at school, to do a Bible study with a Brazilian-American girl, and to share my testimony with the young people at ARCA and the Creative Hands project.

I had prayed that it would be a useful time to learn about overseas mission, and grow spiritually. It was a real privilege to see how varied the life of a female missionary can be, and the different opportunities for ministry that exist for single and married women. Thank you for all your prayers.

KATHERINE SAVAGE

Katherine is a member of Carey Baptist Church, Reading



I went to MusaweNkosi Children's Home in Entweni, about 2 hours north of Durban. There are currently 30 children living there, aged between 8-21, all of whom are still in school. The site is in the rural area and the schools are not great. From about Grade 5/6, all of their

lessons are taught in English, despite the fact that a lot of them struggle with English.

My main focus was helping the children with homework after school which we planned, prepared and helped them with. The children had differing levels of English, concentration and ability. It was challenging, but fun, to prepare homework and do it with them each day and to see the progress they made. There was one boy who hadn't really been in school and struggled to concentrate. By Easter, he was asking to do his homework and did way more than was needed!

I think when people go out to different countries and work with different people, you expect to give and don't think about receiving anything. I am so blessed to have received so much, as well as giving. God works in the most random of situations and teaches us so much. Whilst I was in South Africa, I had so many problems with my visa. Although this was very frustrating, it was a time when God taught me that I had to trust him and depend on him completely. I knew how much I wanted to stay, but I had no idea whether I was going to be able to do so. I knew that I would be in South Africa just as long as God wanted me to be, not a day longer or shorter.

BETH PARMENTER

Beth is a member of Swindon Evangelical Church

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MINISTRY IN THAILAND

ICS

I'm now in my third period of short-term mission in Thailand. For me being a short-termer has been a great way to learn about Thailand and to discover and explore opportunities for future ministry.

My first visit was for three weeks which was great to get a taste of Thai culture; I was able to meet people and see Bangkok. It was also helpful for me to learn if I could cope living in a very different place. During the time I was there I experienced political protests and university shutdowns, and the heat! My main memories from my first trip to Thailand are of the lovely Thai people I met, the overwhelming prevalence of Buddhism everywhere I went, and of the needs in the student ministry there.

My second visit was for one year. This meant that I was able to get much more involved in ministry. It has been such a privilege to work alongside Johnny and Ann and the Thai staff in the international student ministry! Being in Thailand

for a whole year was such a great learning experience. It has been so valuable to have the guidance and support of Johnny and Ann. In this period I was able to build much deeper relationships with people. I have loved being able to regularly meet with inter students to study the Bible and to support campus cell groups.

I've now just started my second year in Bangkok. As I already know something of the context I'm working in, and the students I am seeking to support, I've been able to get started straight away. It's been really exciting to see how things are developing and the opportunities that are opening up on new campuses.

Please pray for finding a suitable place to live for this year; wisdom to make the most of the new opportunities; for Christian students to have a desire to share the Gospel on their campuses and with their friends; that many students will hear the Gospel and trust in Christ.

RUTH DUFFIN

Ruth is a member of Glen Croft Church, near Leicester



TAKING THE GOSPEL TO THE VILLAGES OF FRANCE

When we moved to France in September 2011, we knew little about the country, less about the language, even less about what we should do and had no plans other than to go to language school for nine months in the town of Albertville.

During our time there, someone put us in touch with Pastor Michel Louis and his wife Christine. They are working in a small evangelical church in the village of Bourgneuf, about 20 miles from Albertville. We liked the church fellowship, we liked the Pastor and his wife, we liked the beautiful area, we made some

friends. The big question was what to do when we finished language school. We considered some opportunities in other regions and travelled to see some of the work in other parts of the country but as we explored the area around the church we discovered a lot of villages where there is no evident gospel witness. So we decided to stay and moved from Albertville to the beautiful, sleepy village of Saint Pierre d'Albigny about four miles from the church.

The people, to whom we are reaching out, live in scattered, small villages, some of just a hundred or



"I am the light of the world; he that follows me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life".

so inhabitants. They earn their living primarily from tourism, farming and vineyards.

Almost every village has a Roman Catholic church and, even though many have no priest and practising Catholics are a definite minority, there is a deep rooted suspicion of all religion that is not "the church". They are educated, hard working and proud of their traditions. Yet, we believe they are lost like sheep without a shepherd and we sense a real spiritual darkness here.

We try many different ways to contact people and share the good news with them. Door to door is difficult, with many homes being gated and





with intercom access only. We have done literature drops and with help from a team from our home church (Dundonald Baptist Church) we have distributed over four thousand Gospels of John. We have found one of the best ways for us to engage people is simply to go walking in a village and start up conversations with whomever we meet, for village life is slow and time is not your master. We have joined several associations in order to make ourselves known, and this has resulted in good friendships and opportunities to share our beliefs. Terece has joined the local painting club and discovered a latent talent and, most importantly, has had the opportunity to witness for our Saviour. The book stall which I helped Pastor Michel man in the market towns of Aiguebelle and la Rochette has been discontinued this year for various reasons, but I maintain contact with the friends made there.

Last year I did a series of Bible studies on Colossians in the church's two house groups. It was difficult



for me to do it in French but we had some good times of fellowship as we learned together. We also had some outreach events at the church throughout the year – a music night, a barbecue, and a neighbours' day among others. It was a special joy to see some of our non-Christian friends come along to hear the gospel and meet other believers.

However this year the fellowship has also experienced serious problems and as a result we have lost several members. Some were our close friends. In an already small and struggling church their loss has been keenly felt. We are

constantly reminded that, "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain that build it" Psalm 127:1, and that "Salvation is of the Lord". Jonah 2:9.

Will you please pray for us, that we might be faithful witnesses, not discouraged by the spiritual darkness around us, but rather boldly proclaiming the One who said, "I am the light of the world; he that follows me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life".

With truly thankful hearts for all your prayers and support in the Gospel.

**RICHARD AND TERECE
DILWORTH**

LEARNING TO



OTHERS AS GOD LOVES US



It was late on Christmas Eve when I got the call. Fabiano's Mum was furious. Fabiano had just wrestled her to the ground to prise a dog out of her embrace and thrust his sister flying back towards the door as he stormed out back to his Dad's.

It was, actually, comparatively tame compared to his background. Having been sent to prison as a teenager for stabbing someone, his parents had thought he had learnt his lesson. But a few years later, his anger is still not under control. In fact, just a couple

of weeks before writing this article, I chatted with his Mum who was angry about how he had spoken back to her. I reminded her where he had come from to encourage her to scale her expectations accordingly. She had forgotten.

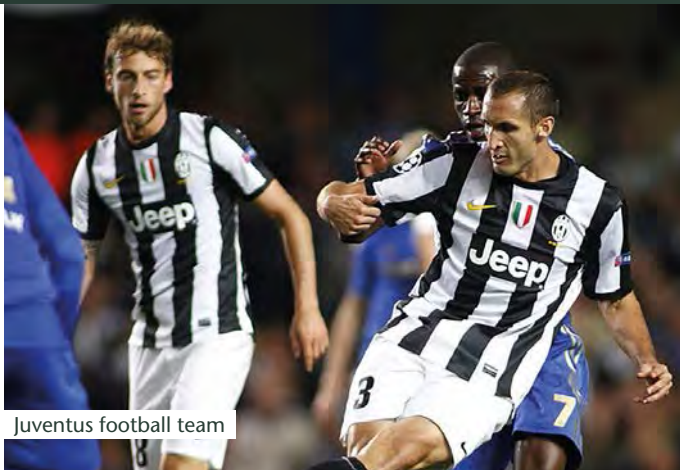


There is much anger working with lower class, Italian men. A lot of the time, they don't recognise it or they don't want to admit it or they don't want to face it. I dedicated one midweek meeting exclusively to anger management and a couple commented on how useful it was and important to talk about this and how they wanted more but the next week those same people were elsewhere, avoiding the topic. Interest yet denial.

And it is interesting seeing how that affects both what they look for and what they appreciate in church. You see, they want judgement. They want to hear condemning messages against others - perhaps because it justifies their own feeling of anger and gives it a legitimate target. Consequently, they also dislike sensitivity. You just need to be blunt and say things directly.

And yet they need a different approach. They need love and they do need gentleness, though they don't realise it. They need to learn to manage conflict sensitively. They need Christ to soften them and teach them how to deal with problems they face in life and that thumping someone is not the answer.

Jonah wasn't really much different. In Jonah 3 he was angry; angry with God for his love and patience. Why doesn't God just strike them all down and punish them!



But pray to Christ also that I would have patience in dealing with the majority who are less sorted and for love where their godliness is very much a work in progress.



(Was Jonah from Turin too?) Jonah was self-focussed. (I, me, my occurs 9 times in v2-3). He isolated himself (v5), and his anger consumes him so that everything seems awful and he can't think straight. (v9)

The Lord corrects him with a parable and tries to get him to put things in the right perspective. In 3:11 God challenges him to see that people are of much more importance than animals and plants and, given that Jonah didn't want God to

destroy a plant, should he not feel disturbed at the idea of God destroying a city? The chapter finishes here leaving us in suspense as to what would happen.

And that's how I feel about my current ministry in Italy. There are a lot of unfinished stories like Fabiano who is not as 'sorted' as I would like to see him. Now yes, do praise God for the success stories, for our converted drug dealer for example and our repentant convicted paedophile. But pray to Christ also that I would have patience in dealing with the majority who are less sorted and for love where their godliness is very much a work in progress. That just as the Lord has borne with, loved and nurtured this misguided, rebellious outlaw, so I need to learn to love and nurture and care for others.

PAUL CHATFIELD

Paul is currently co-leading a church in Turin. In the coming year he will be moving to work more in apologetics with students.

BRINGING BEAUTY TO BROKEN LIVES



Capriana is a beautiful village in Moldova surrounded by hills and forests. It has an ancient monastery. The site of our 4th house is on the main road that runs through the village and is just a few minutes away from the local Baptist church. Members of the church and the pastor have long-standing involvement with adults with disabilities and one of the deacons has cerebral palsy. They are looking forward to the new house opening and have been very supportive of our work. In fact, it was the pastor who led us to the site of the new house.

Casa Ana is to be the name of the 4th house. It means 'house of mercy' in Romanian and our prayer is that the 6 women who will live there will each experience the amazing mercy of God in Jesus Christ for themselves. The primary aim of the work has always been the salvation

of those we serve. Each of the women will come from long stay institutions for adults with disabilities. Their ages will range from the 20's to 40's and they have lived for almost all their lives shut away from society in huge institutions where deprivation and, sadly, sin also abound. At least 2 of them - Vera and Lilia - have been converted in those institutions. The house is nearly complete and it is our hope that they will be able to move into the house before the harsh Moldovan winter begins.

For the last 2 years the house has been under construction and it now seems a very long time since we initially bought the land; got planning permissions and laid the foundations. There have been formidable obstacles along the way, not least the repercussions of our refusal to pay bribes to local officials. But the Lord has been with

us at every step as teams from Operation Centurion, led by Pete Nye, and men from Moldova we knew have worked tirelessly (often in temperatures in the upper 30C's) to build the new house. This is the first of the houses that we have built from the beginning and we hope that there will be longer-term savings on heating, repair and adaptation costs.

The Lord's people have prayed for us throughout this whole process and we are full of praise to Him that he has kept the teams safe and well and also that we have never ever lacked for our needs. We see his purposes quietly unfolding for the women who will live there and we believe that from all eternity our glorious God, in love, has been secretly planning to give these women a hope and a future. May this house bring great glory to our mighty Redeemer!

Please pray that Casa Ana will become a door of salvation and blessing for those who will live there; that we will find the right staff and that all the official permissions will be given. Pray, too, for the little church in Capriana that we will be a blessing to them and them to us and for an anointing on the ministry of the Pastor – Valeriu.

MAUREEN WISE



MISSION FINANCE 2014-2015

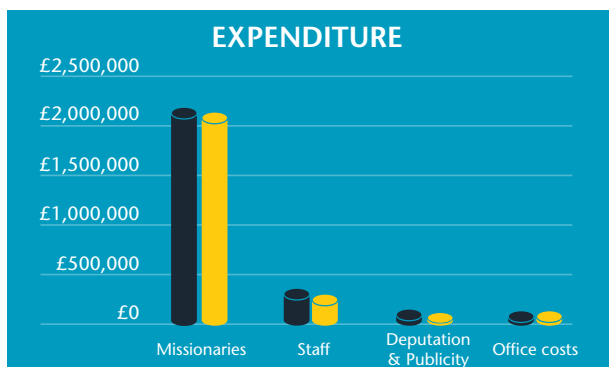
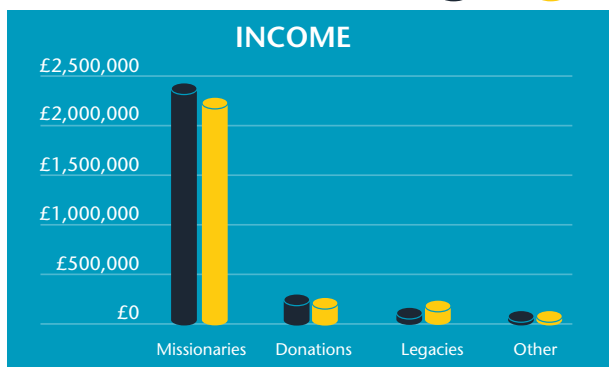
We are very thankful to all the churches and Christians who support the work of UFM financially. Your faithful financial and prayerful support is vital to the ministries of our missionaries and to the whole work of UFM. Our latest accounts are for the year ended 31 March 2015. The charts show the income and expenditure of the Mission for both this year and last year:



Donations for Missionary Support amounted to £2,412,460. This is a 4.35% increase on the previous year and reflects both the increased support needs of our missionaries and the increasing number of missionaries now serving with UFM. The cost of supporting of our missionaries was £2,150,476 compared to £2,124,022 in the previous year. Over the last year there has been an increase in funds earmarked for missionary support of £261,984.

Income to our General Fund, which covers the administration costs of supporting our missionaries, was £365,717. This compares with £442,481 in the previous year. Legacy income has continued to fall from the levels received in past years. Donations and other income show a small increase compared with last year. Expenditure on the administration costs was £534,350 (2014: £467,861) for the year. Our commitment to providing effective support to the increasing number of missionaries serving with UFM has led to increased staff and overseas visits costs.

Expenditure from Unrestricted Funds exceeded income by £158,468 (2014: £11,601) before adjusting for the value of the Mission's investments. After adjusting for the increase in the market value of our



investment assets the deficit on Unrestricted Funds was reduced to £133,633 (2014: £7,585). We also transferred £4,000 from the Bethany Hall Trust Fund to cover the costs of the Operation Centurion ministry.

The balance on General Fund at 31 March 2015 was £437,698 (2014: £596,166).

The Council are actively considering ways to increase income to the General Fund in the light of the significant

reduction in legacies.

The Council gratefully acknowledges the goodness of God in the provision of financial resources for the work of UFM Worldwide over many years. Please pray with us as we consider the challenge of increasing the income to the General Fund to enable all our missionaries to be effectively supported in their work.

BRIAN MITCHENER
Mission Treasurer

WHATS ON

Called to Serve

4-6 March 2016
Hebron Hall, Cardiff
For more information,
contact Debbie Fitch
Email debbie@ufm.org.uk

Irish Spring Conference

18-20 March 2016
Lodge Hotel, Coleraine
For more information,
contact Gillian Carson
Email gillian@ufm.org.uk

Scottish Conference

15-17 April 2016
Atholl Centre, Pitlochry
For more information,
contact Janice Brown
Email janice@ufm.org.uk

Family Conference

1-5 August 2016
Latimer Place, Amersham,
Buckinghamshire
Bible Ministry: Dave Burke
For more information,
contact Debbie Fitch
Email debbie@ufm.org.uk

SUMMER TEAMS 2016

Brazil *July-August* Children's work and community outreach

France *July-August* Community outreach

Greece (with IFES) *July* Tourist outreach on Greek island

Moldova *August* Adult outreach at institution and practical work

South Africa *July-August* Children's clubs and practical work

South Asia *August* Family and children's ministry in urban and rural settings

Thailand (with IFES) *August-September* Student outreach

For more information contact: debbie@ufm.org.uk

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We encourage you to look at the excellent cards, calendars and books produced by Gospel Cards. Every year they distribute part of their profits to Christian missions, including UFM. You can find full details of the cards, etc. on their website www.GospelCardsEtc.com or you can ask them for a catalogue. Telephone **01656 647551**, or write to Gospel Cards, 15 Brackla Street Centre, Bridgend, CF31 1DD



COMING

September

Paula Harris to the UK

November

Shirley Teixeira to the UK

December

Diane to the UK

GOING

September

Shirley Teixeira to Brazil
Jayne Smyth to Sierra Leone
Jon & Lisa Short to Spain
Jonathan & Clare Skipper to Spain

December

Tuangpi & Michaela to Asia

January

Edward & Esmé Zárate to Peru
Ruth McGarvey to France
Diane to Asia



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