



**ufm**  
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# 4 CORNERS

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in Turkey

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR...

It has been hard to know quite how to start this New Year's edition of 4 Corners. In Jesus the message of hope is so strong that we can say 'Happy New Year' in a meaningful and confident way on whatever date, and under whatever circumstances, we find ourselves saying it. "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." (Heb. 6:19a). "We are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken." (Heb. 12:28a). But, at the same time, our lives, our faith, our circumstances, our contexts can be shaken – and profoundly so.

## PAIN...

As I write this article my heart is heavy. Not that there isn't a huge amount to be thankful for and to be glad about. There really is. But, there are so many situations where people are hurting, where there is overwhelming suffering and brokenness – in the

lives of both believers and unbelievers, in churches and ministry contexts, as well as in communities and nations more widely. There are invasions, civil wars, epidemics, terrorist attacks, displaced people and the overflowing sense of loss and sadness, perplexity, disorientation and alienation for millions of individuals, including, sometimes, ourselves. The conflict in Syria has led to the death of 250,000 people so far, and the displacement of over 12 million.

I was reading Psalm 22 recently and was moved by the detailed way the psalmist talks about his pain and anguish – "scorned and despised, mocked" (v6), "there is no-one to help" (v.8), "surrounded, torn apart, poured out like water, bones out of joint, heart turned to wax, strength dried up, tongue sticking to the roof of my mouth." (vv12-18). It is the kind

*Rescue me from the mouth of the lions;  
from the horns of the wild oxen.*

of agony that Alejandro González Iñárritu seems to be evoking in his recent film *The Revenant*. However, it appears that **what hurts the most** is the sense that God is “so far” away (v1), and that he does “not answer” (v2). It’s all there in the Psalm and at times we, too, might find ourselves in circumstances like this.

(A quick note – when we find ourselves in circumstances like these it is tempting to think that it is because of sin in our lives, that God is punishing us. But notice in this Psalm that there is no reference to the psalmist seeing sin as the problem. There is no confession...)

## PERSEVERANCE...

Another remarkable aspect of Psalm 22 is the way the psalmist keeps going. He perseveres – in expressing his questions to God (vv1-2), in expressing his pain to God (vv6-8 and 12-18), in reflecting on God’s sovereignty (v3), and care – historically (vv4-5), and personally (vv9-10), and in asking God to help him (vv11 and 19-21). Persevering is tough and I love the words of 2 Thessalonians 3:5 where

it says, “May the Lord direct your hearts into God’s love and Christ’s perseverance.” Again and again the Bible calls us to persevere and gives us examples of those who have persevered, but here, in 2 Thessalonians, we are reminded that the desire to persevere and the strength to persevere come from the Lord. Isn’t that wonderful?

## PROCLAMATION...

There is a turning point (!) and it comes at the end of verse 21. Michael Wilcock (The Bible Speaks Today) explains that the first two thirds of the psalm end with this totally unexpected cry from the psalmist “you have answered me!” The Hebrew vividly reveals the lightning change in his mood, for rescue has come, interrupting him in the middle of his sentence. “Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; from the horns of the wild oxen – **YOU HAVE ANSWERED ME!**” And, then, at the end of the Psalm, that emphatic ‘he has done it!’ It is this experience and awareness of God’s intervention in his life that catapults the psalmist into proclamation, a proclamation that, according to Derek Kidner, “overflows all its natural banks.” He is now no longer in pain and alone, but praising God in the congregation (vv22-26), and praising God to the ends of the earth, to the families of the nations and to future generations! (vv27-31) The scope of it is remarkable! As with the psalmist, so it is with us too, our understanding and experience of God’s deliverance constrains us to



speak his praises “in the congregation” and “to the ends of the earth.”

## PROPHECY...

Psalm 22 is linked inseparably with Jesus, as from the cross he cries ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’ (v1 and Mk. 15:34). The authentic experience of the psalmist, and that of others, and our own, is fully eclipsed by Jesus’ death and resurrection. It is in him, the “precious life” (v20) that the psalmist prophesies about, that we find our ultimate deliverance, and in whom is the deliverance of the nations, now, and in future generations. Not only that but “He didn’t go to all this trouble for angels. It was for people like us, children of Abraham. That’s why he had to enter into every detail of human life. Then, when he came before God as high priest to get rid of the people’s sins, he would have already experienced it all himself – all the pain, all the testing – and would be able to help where help was needed” (Heb. 2:16-18). **HE HAS DONE IT! IT IS FINISHED! PROCLAIM HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS!**

Happy New Year, and thank you for your fellowship and partnership in the Lord Jesus and in his death and resurrection.

**JOHN-MARK**



# TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON

*"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven. A time to be born, and a time to die... A time to weep and a time to laugh. A time to mourn and a time to dance... He has made everything beautiful in its time."*  
Ecclesiastes 3

*"Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."*

1 Corinthians 1:25

**Y**elda's voice did not falter as she read these meaningful words at the front of church a few days after her and Elias' 6-week old baby had lost his struggle against the many complications with which he had been born. Barely a year in the faith, Yelda had seen Solomon's words in a dream the previous night, had looked them up in her Bible the next morning, and had known they were the words to share with the congregation during the thanksgiving service for baby Reuel.

Yelda and Elias had not had time to go through the procedure of having 'Christian' put onto baby Reuel's identity card, so his burial could not take place at one of the Christian cemeteries. Nonetheless, they did manage to persuade the imam that they would do the graveside prayers themselves, and as the small group of believers bowed their heads under the bright sun, this place, which had only ever witnessed abject hopelessness in death, now, for the first time, beheld the

faces and heard the testimony of those who held dear the hope of resurrection. The unbelievers around the little graveside were deeply moved.

Reuel was the third of our church family to be called home last summer. First, our church grandfather, then our beloved pastor, and then our youngest member. Each death drew us closer to each other, gave us renewed vision to continue on, and brought heaven and eternity to the forefront of our lives.

In addition, each death represented a different generation. For the first time in the history of the modern Evangelical movement in Turkey, which began in the early 1960's with the coming of two Christian workers from overseas, we can now begin to talk of a third generation of believers. When the two workers arrived, there were only one or two known believers from a Muslim background in the whole country.<sup>1</sup> Today the number has grown to approximately 5,000.<sup>2</sup> Despite there being an increasing number of second, and now even third, generation believers, the majority are still first generation, and the biggest and most significant role a foreign Christian worker can play is to support, encourage, and mentor these young believers, for whom, in many cases, their only family is now the church.



It has been my privilege in recent months to be involved in the mentoring of two young women, both of whom have believing mothers. In both cases the mothers came to faith in a remarkable way, where all praise goes to the God who, as the Good Shepherd, seeks and saves the lost. Let me tell you the stories of how God found these women.

## FRIEDA'S STORY

Since her husband's conversion, Frieda (from Antioch) had been exposed to the Gospel, but had strongly resisted it, feeling it was for the weak and uneducated. But God was calling her. Her sisters went to live in the UK and were loosely connected to a Turkish-speaking church there. When Frieda went to visit them, she was taken along to the church and was given a Turkish Bible, which she took back to Turkey with her.

Some time went by. Frieda's heart was still hard, but she knew she was not happy and there was no purpose in her life. One day, when she felt particularly miserable, she was drawn to open the Bible that she had been given. It fell open at a page where a verse had been underlined: *"Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."* (1 Corinthians 1:25).

Who had underlined that verse we may never know, but it is certain that the Lord knew exactly how Frieda's heart would be opened. He called her and she came.



Turkish Bible

## SHARI'S STORY

Recently divorced, and left with very little means to bring up her young twins, Shari was brought to the end of herself. As a child she remembers having watched a film on the television about the life of the Prophet Isa and she had been very impressed by his gentle forgiveness and mercy. She felt certain that, if ever there was a true Prophet, he must surely be the Prophet Isa.

One morning, in the little stationery shop which she ran single-handedly, her despair got the better of her and putting her head on the counter, sobbing deeply, she called out to God to help her. After a while she lifted her head and saw a lady coming towards the shop. In her heart she knew this person could help her. The lady was a foreigner who spoke good Turkish and who asked for some pages of a Christian song book to be photocopied.

Despite feeling drawn to the lady, Shari was too overwhelmed to talk to her, so she did the copying and let the lady leave with hardly a word. Once she had gone, Shari was full of regret that she had been unable to talk to her. She cried to God again, asking him to bring the lady back. To her astonishment, the foreigner did indeed come back, saying the wrong pages had been copied.

This time Shari was ready and they got talking. The foreign lady, who had been clearly told by the Lord that the person in the stationery shop was in deep need, and ready to hear the Word of the Lord, promised to come back and do Bible studies with Shari. Very soon after that the Word of God took root in Shari's heart and she has not looked back since.

It is wonderful that these two women have shared their faith with their children who are now, in turn, both serving in various roles in the church as well as holding down busy secular jobs.

Today the church in Turkey is faced with many new challenges as the number of refugees increases, and as the unrest in neighbouring countries affects the population here. All challenges are doors to opportunity, and we see this clearly as many of the churches are involved in helping the refugees. This is a season which God has prepared for us. May we rise to the challenges, strengthened by him, encouraged that he calls and draws people to himself. And so in this season, too, may we see that "He makes everything beautiful in its time."

\* All names have been changed

1. Pam Wilson, *Striving Together for the Faith of the Gospel: 1961 – 1996* (unpublished paper, 1996), 4.
2. Barbara G. Baker, *Overcoming a Century of Pain* (World Watch Monitor, 2015).



*My favourite part of the job is educating the mothers and helping them keep hope. I encourage them that with God all things are possible.*

# GOD WAS SURELY WATCHING OVER ME!

**S**ister Jane is the nutrition nurse at Kiwoko Hospital, Uganda. She is a godly woman who has touched many lives, including my own. She has a fascinating story of how God brought her to where she is now and she has given me permission to share it with you.

"I was born in **Uganda** and lived in the central region near Kiwoko until I was 13. Then the civil war started. Initially, we heard rumours of what was happening further north, but a year later the fighting had reached our village.



People were being shot and houses burnt so we ran away, along with most of the people around. We hid in bushes, getting what food we could from the fields. It was too dangerous to travel in the

day, so we travelled at night. One night I became separated from my parents and 5 brothers. I had spent the night travelling with a group of people, but only realised my family was not amongst them in the morning. There was no way for me to find them. I spent the next days trying to find enough food to eat and avoiding the soldiers and the rebels who were all around. I had heard stories of what happened to people who were found in that area and I was afraid, unsure of what to do. Then I remembered I had a

relative who lived in Kampala. The fighting was much less there and if I could reach there, I would be safe.

The nearest town was Luwero. It took me 3 nights of walking to reach there. By that time I was starving. My only clothing was a skirt. I had no luggage or identification. The first driver refused to take me. He was afraid of the soldiers at the road blocks. They would see me, assume I was a rebel, and shoot me, and, probably, the driver too.

The next driver recognised me. He also refused initially, but then said he knew my father and that he was a good man, so he hid me in the footwell and placed mats over me. He told me not to move or make a sound. Three times the soldiers at the road blocks stopped the bus and the passengers all disembarked, stepping over me as they did. At the last roadblock a soldier entered the bus, stepping directly on my head, but I had to keep quiet or I, the bus driver, and all the other passengers were in danger of being shot.

We eventually reached Kampala. The driver commented that God was surely watching over me. I arrived at my auntie's house severely malnourished and sick. I was given a basin to wash, but the cold water brought about hypothermia and I collapsed. After 3 days in the hospital, I was discharged on a nutrition program and gradually regained my strength. From there God gave me a heart for those with malnutrition.

I finished school in Kampala. Museveni won the war in 1987, and the fighting subsided. I heard about a man called Ian Clark who was looking for people to join him in Kiwoko to set up a clinic. I travelled there and was reunited with my family. They all thought I was dead, and I feared the same for them. It was a sweet reunion.

In 1988 I joined Ian Clark and helped out at the clinic. We were few, and not qualified, but he would teach us and then we would do go to the villages and do community health talks, immunisations and education. By 1991 the clinic became a hospital. I was given the opportunity

to be trained in nutrition and, since then, have been the nutrition nurse at Kiwoko Hospital. My favourite part of the job is educating the mothers and helping them keep hope. I encourage them that with God all things are possible. The motto of the hospital is "We treat, Jesus heals". I believe that is so, and have seen God heal many patients, some miraculously, when even we had lost hope. My favourite scripture is Psalm 23. It has helped me through the darkest times and I know that God has been my faithful shepherd in the past, and will continue to be so in the future."

**DR BECCA JONES**



# ALWAYS BEING PREPARED TO GIVE A REASON

Berta and I live in Jászberény, Hungary, with our two daughters, Abigél and Bíborka, in the heart of what is called "Jász" region after the people who long time ago maintained some distinctiveness from the Hungarians. In itself there are lessons in this simple fact for us Hungarians as we face the challenge of great numbers of immigrants crossing our borders and maybe some looking to stay in Hungary.

Between 2004 and 2013 I was able to be involved in fulltime Christian ministry and count it a privilege to have been able to be God's instrument in the local church and also in a much wider ministry through the Hungarian Bible Society. However, we had to experience some hardship in a really challenging church situation - maybe not unknown to some of you -

where in the end the pastor moved to another church and we, too, were welcomed by another church who look to us to use the gifts God has given us in contributing to the life and ministry of the church. We found a spiritual home with the Reformed Church of Hungary congregation in Nagykáta. They are the people of God and hold the Word of God very dear. Their spirituality is very real!

There was a year in our lives when things, formerly considered firm and taken for granted, all changed and we experienced the truth of the verse, "The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms." (Deut. 33:27) Those arms were holding us when we didn't have a permanent place to live - a real pilgrim experience - and when the issues in the church gave us great concern as we also faced

other challenges at the same time. All we could do was to rely on God. It was not easy to be patient and faithfully look to God when we didn't see anything changing for the better. Yet now we now can say that the hardship was for our good and that God was refining us, making our faith in him stronger.

Three years ago I had to return to secular employment to support our growing family through a "tent-making" ministry. I acquired a second degree in Quality Management and am working as a production quality engineer at a local Electrolux factory. All my work colleagues know that I also hold a degree in Theology and am closely involved in the life and ministry of a Reformed congregation. This creates great opportunities for



witness and meaningful conversations. Please pray for this real workplace ministry. Someone said: "I could imagine myself going to a church where you preach." May that happen soon!

With Berta's encouragement and support I am able to preach regularly in the two daughter churches and also in the main congregation. We also hold follow-up English Classes and invite children to the Summer English Week where UFM Summer Team members teach Bible stories and English. This is a great outreach through which we make contact with many families. A church magazine has been started and is welcomed by people outside the church. We currently print 250 copies.

I am convinced God has placed me where I am so that I can be a witness through my daily work. One of my colleagues asked how someone can be comforted in the face of death. Another plainly stated that she believed there is only this life and there is nothing beyond it. I could challenge her on that statement and where, if taken seriously, such thinking leads. Our office can at any time turn into a place of theological debate where my immediate quality colleagues look to me to give answers from the Bible. How often do these opportunities present themselves? I do not exaggerate when I say that it is every day and I need to be "always prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason



for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." (1Peter 3:15) If anyone seems very interested the conversation continues outside work. I have a number of such one-to-one talks to be held.

Much wisdom is needed at work in using these opportunities in the best way for God's ultimate glory. I am "snowed under" with many things to do - also known by many of you, I am sure - both at work and in the church and I need to maintain a fine balance. This is where sport - which may sound strange - is a great help. As I run, I am able to listen to sermons. We face a great challenge in the small numbers in one of the daughter churches and think and pray for her future. We are grateful for many things, including the excellent partnership with the minister, a good ministerial team in the church and a real interest in the English Summer Week. We hope to have one again this year. We are glad for a good fellowship of people who are attentive to the Word and grateful for the messages preached both in the main congregation and the daughter churches.

Even before the current crisis, The Reformed Church



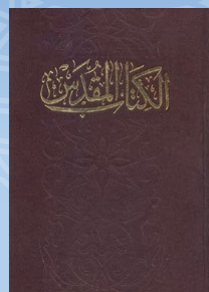
of Hungary had a migrant ministry, going back more than ten years. However, the church has felt the need to strengthen her ministry in these challenging days. We often ask whether the Gospel receives enough focus alongside the social help that people urgently need? This is not easy as it happens through the lives and witness of new-born Christians who are in a one-to-one contact with those who are fleeing their home country. We have people in our church from outside Hungary. Recently the witness of a member from an African country moved us to give thanks to God that we have him in our midst. Another lady described how she once had to flee war-torn Yugoslavia and found a warm welcome in our congregation. We thank God for these brothers and sisters.

**TAMÁS BURJAN**

# CONNECTING WITH THE ARAB WORLD THROUGH MEDIA

Ahmed\* was in a dilemma. He had spent months trying to adapt to the strangely different sights and sounds of Europe, so far away from his home and family in Iraq. Yet a persistent voice within kept calling him to go back. It all began when a friendly German man, who was standing at an open-air bookstall, had stretched out his hand towards Ahmed and offered him a Bible. The Bible was in English, which was easier for Ahmed to understand than German, and he had treasured it and had begun to read it. Studying

the Bible for the first time gave rise to so many urgent questions in Ahmed's troubled mind. He decided to return to the bookstall and see if he could find some answers. The German man seemed very pleased to see him again and was keen to help – he even invited him along to some meetings and Bible studies. The more Ahmed studied the Bible, the more convinced he became that there was light and truth in this new faith. As the days went by, he realised that he had no right to keep such an amazing discovery from his wife and children. After a long



Arabic Bible – Van Dyke

time of inner turmoil, Ahmed reached a decision. Despite his aspirations for a better life as an asylum-seeker in Europe, he knew that he had to return to his family and fulfil his duties as a faithful husband and father to his children.



*It was with a huge sense of relief that he came across an Arabic website that explained about Jesus Christ and his teachings.*

Filled with an inexplicable sense of peace, Ahmed began the long trek back to his home in the Middle East. After the joy of family reunion, another question started to gnaw at his conscience. How could he continue his quest for the truth in such a hostile environment? Spurred on by his wife, who was surprisingly sympathetic to his interest in Christianity, Ahmed searched the internet for information. It was with a huge sense of relief that he came across an Arabic website that explained about Jesus Christ and his teachings. The name of the site was *Shabibah*, which means *Youth* in Arabic. Ahmed was overjoyed when he received a speedy reply to his email enquiry. It was relatively easy, although not without risk, for Ahmed to communicate via his mobile phone with his new friend at *Shabibah*, as well as download the Bible. Ahmed now longs to find someone from his hometown to help him to learn more about the 'religion of love', which he first encountered on a distant continent.

Ahmed's spiritual journey is one of hundreds of vibrant personal testimonies that we receive via email, stories that vividly illustrate the strategic nature of media. Digital technology allows us to proclaim the Gospel to some of the world's least evangelised countries. The *Shabibah* website, [www.shabibah.org](http://www.shabibah.org), which is the web portal of our media group, Arab Focus Media, is now in its third year of broadcast. Since the launch of *Shabibah*, we have witnessed an overwhelming

level of response from people who are looking for hope and security in a hurting world.

As well as website content such as audio messages, Christian music, activities for children, in-depth articles and teaching videos, satellite television provides an open door into the hearts and homes of literally millions of Arabic-speaking people. In the Summer of 2015, Arab Focus Media embarked on an exciting new series of television discussions between nationals from Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt and Syria. The topics centre on giving a Christian response to some of the devastating violence of recent months. Themes such as the sanctity of life, forgiveness and reconciliation and building for the future are discussed in detail and were filmed on location against the stunning backdrop of the Mediterranean coastline. We were privileged to have a gifted team of 18

internationals from 9 different countries working together to realise this ambitious project.

Soon after his return to his home country, Danny\*, our director, was falsely accused and detained by police, and some of his material and equipment was confiscated. These setbacks serve as a poignant reminder of the spiritual battle in which we are engaged.

The constant flow of predominantly bad news from Arab countries can cause anxiety and fear. Yet new media provides an unprecedented opening for the spread of the Gospel. We are privileged to have ever-increasing opportunities to reach out to global neighbours. May we show loving and gracious initiative in proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel to the Arab world through media!

\*Names have been changed



Satellites in North Africa

# PRAY FOR PARIS, FOR LAGNY, FOR FRANCE



**O**n the night of 13 November 2015, as all our screens filled with the terrors of the attacks on the Bataclan, Paris restaurant terraces and the area around the Stade de France, our social media screens began to fill with one phrase: “Pray for Paris.” Whilst we know that this city is not the only one in the world that is suffering, here in the Paris region, we were so grateful for those prayers. We believe that, as a result of them, people were comforted and heard about Jesus. However, as the initial shock of the attacks has subsided, we still need your prayers.

So, for those who are motivated to keep on praying for France longer term, here are some things for which we would ask your prayers.

**For Evangelical Christians to be living in genuine, close, friendships with their atheist, Catholic, agnostic or Muslim neighbours, and those of other religions**

Within days of the 13 November terrorist attacks, we, here, in the slightly sleepy town of Lagny sur Marne (20 miles East of Paris) were shocked to hear that the local mosque had been closed down for the preaching of radical Islam. Since then, the French cabinet has dissolved 3 muslim associations in the town. There are so many people living on our doorstep who need to hear the Gospel, rather than so many other types of teaching that will lead them astray.

I am convinced that the best way for this to happen is for Christians to be getting alongside their neighbours, loving them and sharing

the Gospel with them. This can be hindered, however, by a misunderstanding of what it means to be living in a secular state, like France. Many French people grow up with the misapprehension that secularism means that Christianity can only be a private affair. This obviously impacts on evangelical witness to others. Please pray for clearer understanding and a new boldness to step out with the Gospel.

**For Gospel-preaching churches to be planted all over the land**

The French National Council of Evangelicals (CNEF) estimates that, if everyone is to have a chance to hear the Gospel, there needs to be one Gospel-preaching church for every 10,000 people in France. Currently

the number stands at one church for every 30,000 people, with some more remote areas of France, particularly in the West, having only one church for as many as 100,000 people.

### For Christians to see that the Gospel must transform every part of their lives

Our desire at the Eglise Protestante Baptiste de Lagny (Lagny Baptist Church) is to see the Gospel transforming people deep in their hearts, and for that transformation to overflow into every area of their lives. I work mainly with women and young people, and so I would ask you to pray that particularly for them. What I long to see is families, marriages, work relationships, relationships with neighbours, attitudes to money and possessions, attitudes to ill-health and suffering, all coming under the Lordship of Christ.

### For Christians to be investing their lives for the Kingdom

I am part of the organising committee of a conference called Chrétiennes Engagées (Committed Christians), the aim of which is to provide an annual day of expository Bible teaching for women in the Paris region. Last year, our inaugural conference gathered together over 200 women from throughout the region. This year, with a much bigger



venue, we hope to gather up to 500. Our title this time is "One life: well chosen, well invested," with talks from Luke's Gospel by Naomi Pilgrim, a lovely French lady who lives in Belgium. Please pray that this day would result in 500 lives being invested for the Kingdom of God. It could be one way in which God chooses to answer the other prayers above!

*"Pray for Paris."  
Whilst we know that this city is not the only one in the world that is suffering, here in the Paris region, we were so grateful for those prayers.*

**Finally and most importantly, for hearts to be opened to the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 4.6)**

This sums up all of the other prayer requests and is, of course, always our prayer, wherever we live in the world. But with so much outright rejection of the Gospel in France, for many hundreds of years, we are especially aware of the need for it. It is the Holy Spirit alone who can open blind eyes. Please pray that eyes will indeed be opened across this country, so that many people, of all ages, will see the wonders of Jesus Christ.

**DEBS PRISK**



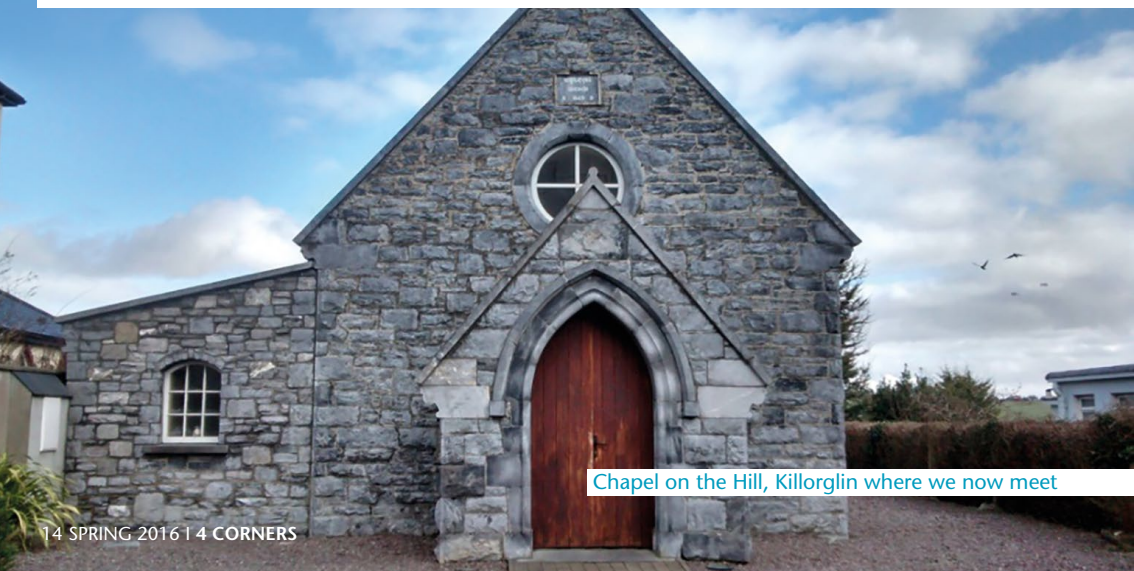
# BUILDING A GOSPEL CHURCH IN KILLORGLIN

Sometimes it seems like many more years than four have passed since we began meeting in Frank and Marie's home as a new church plant. Our journey has taken us to Langford Street and then to the Chapel on the Hill in Market Street, Killorglin. Along the way we have had people come and join us and we have had people leave. We have seen times of encouragement and refreshing and times of discouragement too. We are thankful to the Lord for his faithfulness through it all and to all who have stood and knelt with us, and continue to do so.

During the first 2 years in the town we rented a building and converted it into a place where our church could meet. We had many outreach opportunities and established a visible presence. Very early on we hosted the opening service for a town initiative and our building was filled to capacity with our neighbours who heard the Gospel proclaimed. Having our own building meant we could have a tea room during the annual Puck Fair, host a monthly coffee morning, have our midweek and weekly Ladies' Bible studies, ministry training, youth meetings, prayer meetings, church dinners and special

outreach meetings whenever we wanted. We had a meeting room, a Sunday School room, and library. Our numbers grew until we thought it would not be long before we needed to find a new meeting place.

Our people were growing and serving and people from the town were attending regularly. The men were enthusiastic about learning and leading. We had a group of young musicians taking care of the music ministry and a dedicated group of Sunday School teachers. There was an excitement about reaching the people of Killorglin with the Gospel in whatever way we could.



Chapel on the Hill, Killorglin where we now meet

Many opportunities were lost, however, when we were told we had to move out of the building due to planning permission problems. We had to look for an alternative meeting place. The only suitable place we could find was a community building, an old Wesleyan chapel, which we use on Sunday mornings. This had an impact on the ministry and what we were able to do. All our meetings had to be moved to homes. Our Sunday School now meets in the kitchen. During this transition many people left for various reasons and we faced many trials. We clung to God and to each other and, looking back, we see his hand of faithfulness to us.

We have seen people come to know the Saviour. Four of our young ones have followed the Lord in baptism. We have had our first graduate from our Bible programme and have had many go on life-changing short term mission trips. We have newly-trained Sunday School teachers faithfully teaching God's Word in the kitchen to precious young children. We have people who love and serve the Lord with their whole hearts and share God's love with those

*Our people were growing and serving and people from the town were attending regularly. The men were enthusiastic about learning and leading.*



Sunday morning service



Frank Coffey receiving his Bible programme diploma



Marie Coffey teaching Sunday school in the kitchen

they meet. We have reached into the community with practical special events and talks as each season allows. We marvel at the growth God has allowed in our people. Many are serving in ways they never have before. It is encouraging to hear them talk about what God is teaching them and pray for family and friends to be saved. They invite family members to Bible studies in

their homes and hand out Gospel literature wherever they go.

As we look ahead we are trusting God to continue building his church in Killorglin as we work together to reach the lost for Christ and seek to build up the believers in unity and the bond of peace for his glory.

**SHAUN AND TANIA ABRAHAMS**



Ladies Bible study in our home

# FINDING A NEW IDENTITY AND NEW NAME IN JESUS

**I** hate all my friends." As we sat on top of a mountain together, surveying the magnificent peaks of the western Fann Mountains, Mike and I discussed these friends and his feelings toward them – all the time watching those friends, scrambling below us, like little ants, making their way up the mountain towards us.

The evening before, whilst we sat around the campfire, I had shared the parable of the unforgiving servant from Matthew 18 with Mike and the rest of the group. We discussed what it means to be a good leader. So as Mike opened up his heart, and some of the struggles he was experiencing back home,

we were able to reflect on that parable and Jesus' call for us to be people marked by the same forgiveness we have experienced. Mike's not a Christian and, as far as I am aware, I'm the first Christian that he's ever met. It was a conversation where I could see the mental cogs whirring in his mind processing both the amazing forgiveness of God through Jesus for us and, also, the revolutionary call to be imitators and enactors of that forgiveness in our own lives. We've since lost contact with Mike because he left the country for work and study, but that moment on the mountain has stayed with me and I pray it's stayed with him too.



For over two years now, we've been in **Tajikistan** seeking to pioneer ministry amongst students here. There are more than 150,000 students, on more than 35 campuses, in at least 8 cities. There are also a handful of students in local fellowships around the country, but as yet, there is not much of a concept amongst these brothers

and sisters that their time at university is a unique opportunity in their lives. It is great time for them to gather together with other students, from different church backgrounds, and seek to engage their fellow-students and campuses for Christ. We hope to see this passion kindled over the coming years as we work here under the banner of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES).

But how? How do we go from where we are now – a handful of Christian students scattered, often isolated, and without a vision for engaging their university – to a Tajik led, Tajik speaking, Tajik culture-honouring, Tajik church-supported, and Tajik church-supporting IFES movement? Much of the last 2 years have been spent trying to get an idea of where we are; “passing through and observing the objects of worship”, as Paul says to the Athenians in Acts 17. A big part of that has been getting to know local unbelieving students, befriending them, finding

out about their lives. What questions are they asking? What struggles are students in Tajikistan experiencing? What they are passionate about? What intrigues them and, ultimately, as Paul did so eloquently with the Athenians, how does the Gospel of Jesus answer and fulfil these questions and longings?

So we’ve found ourselves sat on the top of mountains, drinking vast quantities of weak green tea, crocheting dozens of “granny-squares”, printing hundreds of portions of scripture, visiting extended families in remote villages, walking through the rites of passage of life with young men and women as they start university, navigating the corrupt education systems they find themselves in. Then graduating, getting married, having children, negotiating changing relationships with their parents and peers.

So, now, we find ourselves meeting regularly with a group of girls, studying portions of scripture and using them to answer the question, “Who am I?” Most of these girls aren’t believers, but over yarn and crochet

hooks they are grappling with the claim of the scriptures that in Jesus Christ we are offered a new identity and a new name. We are also meeting regularly with a group of guys – hiking and watching films together – hoping and praying that more of them are intrigued to sit and explore the scriptures further with us. We are excited and hopeful. The few students who are meeting and reading the scriptures with us are finding answers to their questions and longings. Please join us in praying that they won’t stop there, but that we will go on to see the first-fruits that will lead to the establishment of a Tajik led, Tajik speaking, Tajik culture-honouring, Tajik church-supported and Tajik church-supporting IFES movement over the coming years!

***It is great time for them to gather together with other students, from different church backgrounds, and seek to engage their fellow-students and campuses for Christ.***



# FROM EVERY NATION, TRIBE, PEOPLE AND LANGUAGE

A few weeks ago I was sitting in a wooden house on stilts in the middle of the jungle, 18 hours by river to the nearest small town, with a group of my Indian friends, third generation ex-cannibals. I have been visiting them every 2 months for 3 years. On each visit I spend a couple of weeks in the tribe. We hunt and fish but primarily I am seeking to equip their leadership team to care for their little church fellowship. I have taken them through various Bible teaching series: "Who is God and what is he like?" – "The God who speaks" – "What is the church?" – "How is God glorified in mission?" In doing this I became increasingly concerned that they were neither reading the Bible for themselves (they have the New Testament and portions of the Old Testament in their language), nor were they feeding one another with God's Word. It's true that reading is not historically part of their culture, but now they are in contact with the 'white man' they are vulnerable and the Bible is their first defence. So I have stepped up my efforts to encourage them to

feed their own souls, as well as impressing upon them the importance of preaching. I believe that this is the key to growing a corporate Christian testimony as a church in any given place. Where the Bible is taught and Christ exalted, the Holy Spirit will take the Word and work through it into the lives of those he desires to save and to sanctify, and can even transform societies.

The Gospel first arrived among this indigenous people in the 1970's. A church building was built in the 1980's, but in all that time they have never had a pastor! Occasional preachers have passed through, but no-one has stayed. It is only because of God's preserving grace that there is a remnant there at all.

After four sessions, as I sat among them, we arrived at the part where I teach them how to teach others through my study books on Luke's Gospel. The study books are especially designed for them, with space for them to translate my simple notes into their language. In Portuguese I asked them if they could identify the 'principal point' in the passage. Silence. Then

10 minutes passed by with some awkward looks, then some muttering in their own language. Finally, I asked what was the problem? The main preacher, who is also a language teacher in the tribe, said: *"I don't know, it's difficult to say for sure. Each point (which is the same word for full-stop) looks just like all the others. It's impossible to tell them apart."* Whilst searching for the 'principal point', they had missed the point altogether and I had learned a lesson in the need to communicate clearly!

If you were to ask us, *"What is Brazil like?"* we might answer, *"noisy!"* The Presidential promise of *"Lights for Everybody!"* that has brought electricity to even the remotest collection of huts, has also turned out to be *"Noise for/by Everybody"*. Brazilians love their music and presume that you do to. We might also answer, *"friendly!"* Brazilians have large, unsuspicious, hearts and will invite you into their homes and give you the best of everything they have, and even some of what they don't have. There is also a general,

'live and let live' attitude among the ordinary people, 'do what you like, when you like, how you like, with whom you like'. This can make genuine church life messy and frustrating at times.

But I think the best way to describe the mission field in the Amazonian north-west, where we serve, would be as 'cloak-and-dagger.' From a distance, through the shimmering mirage of missionary optimism all looks very inviting, a ploughed field that just needs a little sowing and nurturing. Recently a very well-known American pastor and theologian spoke about the, "*great spiritual revival sweeping through South America.*" The sad reality is that in many places a Christ-less Christianity prevails.

Many have no Bible teaching, neither do some seem to want it. Many prefer a fancy-dress sing-along with a snack, whilst some leaders concentrate on empire building. The slogan for the leading Pentecostal denomination is, '*conquering territories.*' So many have tragically missed the 'principal point', which should always be: "All for the glory of Christ!" We would even go so far as to argue that Brazil is still largely an un-evangelised country; as we meet so few who have ever heard the Gospel explained, and even fewer who believe it and desire to live in a way that pleases God.

The '*dagger*' is firmly in the hands of the dark forces at work here and stabs at anyone who tries to turn



Baptisms, October 2015



Preaching opportunity in a jungle hut



Jason teaching on a camp in the jungle



Oscar – one of the new church leaders being trained

people to biblical Christianity. We have been wounded, but nothing fatal. It is thrilling to know that Christ has already won the victory over Satan on the cross! We love the Brazilian people and will dedicate as many years to serving Christ, through serving them, as the Lord determines. In the creek where we live, just outside Manacapuru,

we are also reaching out to young people and engaging in radio and television ministry.

Please pray for the Lord to raise up faithful workers so that biblical churches will be established across this vast mission-field – all for the glory of Christ.

**JASON MURFITT**

# STUDENT MINISTRY IN BARCELONA

**T**he historic campus of the Universitat de Barcelona is in the centre of the city and hosts 4000 students studying mathematics, modern languages and classics. This year Marta is the only Spanish Christian student that we know of who is studying here. The small group she leads includes a handful of international students and a couple of Spanish students who are studying vocational courses in nearby centres. They meet weekly on campus for Bible study and prayer – fuel for mission.

In July 2014, GBU nationally launched our second “Gospel Project”, taking UCCF’s “Uncover” material and translating it into Spanish. Marta is just one of many students who have taken up this resource. She has already studied the Gospel of Luke

with various friends and is constantly on the lookout for more opportunities.

Not all students are as bold as Marta, but we continually see the blessing and growth that students receive through their involvement in GBU groups in the different universities here in Barcelona and the other four cities of our region, that includes Catalonia and the nearby city of Zaragoza. In Barcelona we have been privileged to have several generations of student leaders with a clear vision and commitment on the priority of evangelism. How important to have that clear! Because there are so many obstacles, it constantly feels like a struggle. We are small in number, both in students (around 100 students involved in the region that has a student population of 225,000), and

in staff (1 full-time frontline staff – my colleague Ismael – and myself as team leader, as well a handful of part-time volunteers.) Students tend to live at home and commute to the university, meaning that campus life is very different to the UK, and finding a time to meet, for example, is far from easy.

There is incredible Gospel need in Spain. We were recently talking to a mum from school who explained her belief in “God” (some kind of benevolent force) and the “message of Jesus that we should love each other.” As with many people, her experience of the Roman Catholic Church has been pretty negative, whether because of hypocrisy, superstition, or the Church’s support of General Franco’s dictatorship, an influence that has inoculated people to the





Gospel. Catalonia is much more secularised than other parts of Spain and many young people, in particular, have a very negative perception of anything that sounds religious.

And yet the great truths of the Gospel do not change. There are always immense spiritual barriers, and Spain is not unique in that regard. Indeed, students, such as Marta, find openness and curiosity among their friends, as well as hostility and misunderstanding.

***We want to have a solid, biblical, Gospel-centred base which will help staff and students to grow in their passion for Christ.***



## WHAT IS OUR ROLE? THIS IS HOW WE SEE OUR CALLING:

- 1** to serve the wider Spanish church by supporting students in mission in the universities of Catalonia and Aragón. Jonathan spent the first seven years here more as a frontline staff worker, supporting students on the ground in their small groups. Now a veteran (!) he is taking more of a secondary role, supervising our frontline staff and volunteers in the region. We want to have a solid, biblical, Gospel-centred base which will help staff and students to grow in their passion for Christ, and so be a blessing to the Spanish churches in years to come.
- 2** to seek to live faithfully as Christians in everyday life, growing in holiness and witnessing for him in the community in which we live, in particular in the school and in the study centre, where Clare teaches a few hours of English, and the local neighbourhood.
- 3** to serve in our small local Spanish church here in Terrassa. Clare is involved in children's and women's ministry. Jonathan is on the leadership, and preaches and leads worship.

Please pray for us and those alongside whom we serve. Our walk with the Lord is always our first and greatest. Four other specific needs are (1) the transition in our Spanish church, with the pastor about to retire, (2) the shortfall in our financial support, (3) more workers for the student ministry and (4) the tense situation in Catalonia over the independence issue.

**JONATHAN AND CLARE SKIPPER**

# NEW TO UFM

Over the past year we have been privileged to welcome several new people to UFM. Those who are only mentioned by their first name are serving in sensitive areas.



## ASIA

**Luke & Heidi**

**Home Church: Christ Church, Bradford**

Luke & Heidi's call to missions started for Luke when he was involved in a prayer group at university and for Heidi on short term mission trips. Luke has been assistant pastor of Christ Church for the past 7 years, with a focus on outreach to Muslims. They have a baby son, Joel.

They hope to move to Asia early this year, spending their first 2 years focusing on language and culture learning, as well as building relationships with local churches. They look forward to serving the national churches in helping believers and churches to grow and mature.



## UGANDA

**Becca Jones**

**Home Church: Caersalem Baptist Church, Cardiff**

Becca has been interested in mission since becoming a Christian and has had a growing sense of God's call to overseas mission work.



In 2008 she qualified as a doctor and specialized in paediatrics. After spending two terms as a short term missionary with UFM in Kiwoko Hospital, in central Uganda, interspersed with work for the NHS in Wales, she has returned to Kiwoko as a long-term missionary. The hospital motto is "We treat, Jesus heals." Becca has a busy ministry, involving primary responsibility for the children's ward and neonatal unit, and out of hours work throughout the hospital. She is also involved with student Bible studies in the training school run by the hospital, as well as local prison ministry.

## ROMANIA

**Andy & Anca Worsop**

**Home Church:**  
**Forest Town**  
**Church, St Albans**



After short term service with UFM in Brasov, Romania, Andy married Anca, and they are now serving in Bucharest. Andy is currently working as a Chaplain for Project Ruth, a school for Roma children and adults needing a second start in life ([www.project-ruth.org](http://www.project-ruth.org)). He is learning Romanian and building relationships in the community to open doors for the Gospel. Andy and Anca have a baby daughter named Chloe.

## IRELAND

**David & Wilma Murphy**

**Home Church: Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Belfast**

David has been a Presbyterian minister for 12 years in two rural congregations in Northern Ireland. Wilma has been fully involved in church life, in addition to home schooling Jessica, Benjamin, Sarah and Jacob. For a long time the Lord has given them a burden to serve him in the Republic of Ireland. Later this year they hope to move to Charlestown in East Mayo, where David will serve as pastor/evangelist of Calvary Church. Their vision is to pastor and build up the existing small congregation, reach out into the community as a family, and look to the possibility of planting other churches in the nearby towns.



## SPAIN

**Jonathan & Clare Skipper**

**Home Church:**  
**Beeston**  
**Free Church,**  
**Nottingham**



Spain has been on Jonathan and Clare's hearts since 1998, when they both spent a year as international students in Barcelona. After marriage, they first volunteered with GBU in Barcelona for 2 years. Then, after 5 years in Nottingham, they returned in 2008 to serve again with GBU. We are glad to welcome them into the UFM family as they continue this ministry. Jonathan and Clare have three children: Timothy, Miriam and Carys.

Jonathan supervises a team of mostly young Spanish volunteers and one full-time student worker. He seeks to support student groups across 5 cities in north-east Spain, through Bible teaching, discipleship, training, and pastoral care for the team. He is also involved in the committee that oversees GBU nationally. As well as the student work, they serve in their small local Spanish church.

**Jonathan & Lisa Short**

**Home Church:**  
**Enfield**  
**Evangelical**  
**Free Church**



Jon studied French and Spanish at University and, after marriage to Lisa, they both felt a clear, firm and settled conviction that God wanted them to work in Spain with students. They worked with GBU in student ministry in Gran Canaria for 5 years, before handing over to a national worker. Since joining UFM, they have moved to Madrid to work with the GBU team there, and have just welcomed a son, Daniel, into the family, to join Joseph and Lucia.

## WHATS ON

### Called to Serve

4-6 March

Hebron Hall Christian Centre,  
Dinas Powys, near Cardiff

A conference for anyone  
interested in serving in mission.

For more information  
email: [debbie@ufm.org](mailto:debbie@ufm.org)

### Irish Spring Conference

18-20 March

The Lodge Hotel, Coleraine

Bible Ministry: Mervyn Scott,  
Director of Baptist Missions

There will be a full children's  
programme of the Saturday.

For further information  
email: [gillian@ufm.org](mailto:gillian@ufm.org)

### Scottish Conference

15-17 April

Atholl Centre, Pitlochry

Bible Ministry: William Brown,  
UFM Assistant Director

For further information  
email: [iaim@ufm.org](mailto:iaim@ufm.org)

### Family Conference

1-5 August

Latimer Place, Chesham,  
Bucks. HP5 1UG

(please note new venue)

Bible Ministry: Dave Burke,  
pastor of Bethany City  
Church, Sunderland

For further information  
email: [debbie@ufm.org](mailto:debbie@ufm.org)  
To book go to [ufm.org.uk/fc](http://ufm.org.uk/fc)

## SUMMER TEAMS

In 2016 we are planning Summer Teams to the following countries:

**South Africa** *June/July* Children's clubs and practical work

**Greece** *July* Outreach to Tourists on a Greek Island (with IFES)

**Brazil** *July/August* Children's clubs and community outreach  
in North Brazil

**Moldova** *August* Practical work & outreach to adults at an institution

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

**Thailand** *August/Sept* Student Outreach (with IFES)

For information on Summer Teams in 2016,  
please contact us at: [summerteams@ufm.org.uk](mailto:summerteams@ufm.org.uk)

### New video – Casa Ana opens

There is a new video about the opening in November  
2015 of the 4th house, Casa Ana, of the Casa Mea  
ministry in Moldova. You can view and download  
the video at [vimeo.com/148361564](http://vimeo.com/148361564)



## COMING

### March

Emily Young to the UK

### April

Susanna Clarke to the UK

### May

Johnny McClean to the UK

## GOING

### April

Paula Harris to Brazil

### May

Emily Young to South Africa  
Emanuele and Ilaria Pedari  
to Italy

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