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MAGAZINE OF UFM WORLDWIDE | SUMMER 2018

GIVING HOPE TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN SIERRA LEONE



**SHOWING GOD'S
GRACE TO THE
FATHERLESS**

PAGE 6



**A LIGHT
SHINES IN
CARRIGTWOHILL**

PAGE 14



**IN THE MIDST
OF JOY AND
CHALLENGES**

PAGE 20



CONTENTS

THE COURAGE TO CARE

02 The courage to care

04 Giving hope to young people in Sierra Leone

06 Showing God's grace to the fatherless

08 The marriage party



10 Christian love in Congo

12 Carcassonne terrorist attack: a Christian response

14 A light shines in Carrigtwohill

16 Gospel outreach in Côte d'Ivoire and Mali

18 Encouraging and equipping Thai Christians to reach international students



20 In the midst of joy and challenges

22 New to UFM

24 News Bites

Those who know me well know that I'm frightened of at least two things, namely wasps and horses. The second is particularly irrational as it seems to stem from being bitten by a donkey as an 8-year-old at Dublin Zoo! So many of our fears are like that aren't they? Totally irrational. There are no real grounds for being afraid and we're like children, scared of the non-existent monster in the wardrobe.

Yet, of course, at other times, our fears are totally understandable. A little while ago my wife and I had the privilege of visiting an island in SE Asia where, 15 years previously, the church had suffered a period of physical persecution. Radical groups had attacked and burned down a number of church buildings and some Christian believers had been physically attacked. Over the 15-year period between the time of persecution and our visit, praise God, things had changed. For example, there was now freedom to worship publically again. Yet as we joined our brothers and sisters for a

service at a church that Sunday afternoon there was a palpable sense of fear among us. In the face of opposition like that, fear seems like a very normal response.

Closer to home, of course the situation is very different. Yet as the church, we still face opposition, don't we? In Rico Tice's book about personal evangelism he talks about 'the pain line,' that is the point in the conversation where we move from topics that are socially acceptable and into territory that can be much less comfortable as we try to speak about Jesus. Against the backdrop of such a strong secular agenda that pain line is getting more painful isn't it?

The Philippian believers who received Paul's letter could also have been excused for being really afraid. When the church was first established, Paul had been flogged and then imprisoned. In this Roman military colony, the rulers didn't take very kindly to people who reserved the words 'Lord' and 'Saviour' for someone other than the Emperor. Yet Paul urges these Philippian believers



to live a worthy life, standing firm and striving together *"without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you."* (Philippians 1:27-28)

How was that possible? Well, Paul goes on to remind them of eternal realities. He says that standing firm and striving together for the sake of the gospel *"is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved – and that by God."* (verse 28b) Paul says to these believers, don't be frightened, don't be intimidated by those who oppose you. Yes, they could throw you to the lions, but *they* are the ones who will be destroyed. In light of eternity, *they* are the ones who need to fear.

Friends, what a helpful, yet sobering thing to hear. As we get on the front foot in mission together, as we strive and fight and contend together for the faith of the gospel, then those who oppose us will see their true spiritual state. Someone has put it like this, *"As they see a church standing for Jesus, standing for eternal things, enduring worldly loss and disrepute for the greater riches*

found in Christ, they'll be gripped by the awfulness of eternal loss."

Friends, they'll come to see they have so much to fear. But more than that, they'll come to see that we are being saved from this destruction by God himself.

On 1 July 2015 a man called Nicolas Winton died at the age of 106. Back in 1938 he'd been working in Prague as the Nazi programme against the Jews was escalating. Showing tremendous bravery Nicolas arranged for the evacuation of 669 Jewish children on 8 trains that made it safely back to England. Speaking about people like Nicolas, one holocaust survivor wrote, "In those times there was darkness everywhere. The killer killed, and the Jews died, and the outside world adopted an attitude either of complicity or indifference. Only a few had the courage to care."

Only a few had the courage to care. A life worthy of the gospel calls us to exchange our fear for faith and our cowardice for courage. It calls us to care for those heading for an eternal destruction. And by standing firm in one Spirit together, by striving for the

"Without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you."

Philippians 1:27-28

faith of the gospel together and by going out on mission together, we will help those who oppose us to perhaps to get on that train, that they, too, might be saved.

What a great thing to pray for UFM missionaries today – that in the face of opposition, in the face of a corrupt local police force or a hostile community leader, in the face of physical violence or verbal abuse – that in the face of all this, and more, they will live and speak for Jesus *"without being frightened in any way by those who oppose them."*

MICHAEL PREST



GIVING HOPE TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN SIERRA LEONE

One aspect of ministry in Sierra Leone is working with under 18s. It is both exhausting and refreshing. In any given week we are parent-figures, teachers, role-models, advocates, and facilitators-of-fun. We are involved in evangelism and discipleship, run some social and educational activities, and also have opportunities for practical ministries – helping kids access medical care, assisting with educational needs, providing meals, etc. Sierra Leone is a country where it is not easy to be a kid, and so in our work here, we laugh a lot, play games, have fun, learn boundaries and good values and eat together. We seek to show that everyone is valuable, and so special to

God. It is deeply rewarding to see children and young people do better in school, become healthier, grasp biblical truths for the first time, put their faith in Jesus, and grow in their relationship with God.

The opportunities are endless, the kids' enthusiasm infectious, and yet the workers are few. We long to see believers from every tribe in Sierra Leone being raised up to work with children in their own churches, communities and cultures. We are thankful for the opportunities we have to train Sierra Leoneans to reach out to children, but we pray that the national churches would be more burdened and mobilised to

send and support children's and youth workers in every corner of this land.

Sometimes discouragement and frustration hit us like a brick wall, at and other times they creep up gradually. In our own ministry, we see it knocking at our door as a result of physical exhaustion, inconsistency in our own walk with God, and when we don't take opportunities for physical, emotional and spiritual nourishment. We see it popping up in a difficult season or a particular situation, such as when some of our local children and young people are prevented from attending our programmes by the religious leaders in our area, when





behavioural problems disrupt children's clubs, or when needs seem too huge. We find it challenging when we don't see the spiritual fruit we would like to see. A great team of supporters makes a tremendous difference during these times, knowing that others are standing with us and praying for us in the discouragements. We also benefit hugely from the nurturing of good friends and our church family in Sierra Leone.

Sometimes we look around at the wee faces we see regularly, and ponder where will they be in 10 years' time, in 20 years' time, and for eternity? We don't know who will be a doctor, an entrepreneur, a lawyer, a teacher, an office-worker, a cleaner, or the next President of Sierra Leone; but what an amazing privilege it is to have this formative time, seeking always to point them to Jesus, help them feel valued and loved, pray for them, and trust that God will work out



his plans and purposes in their lives as they come to know, love and obey Him.

We don't always get to see the 'results' we would love to see, but Christopher Ash reminds us in his *Zeal Without Burnout* book that: "Jesus' work ended – so it seemed – in failure. He was betrayed by a close friend. His other followers deserted him. Almost nobody believed in him. He failed: he was crucified in weakness. And yet 'He will see of the fruit of the travail of his soul and be satisfied' (Isaiah 53:11). And we, too, may know that nothing we do in Christ, for his glory, for his gospel, will ultimately be in

vain... In an Ecclesiastes world of frustration under the sun, in which stuff just goes wrong, people mess up, in Jesus Christ there is such a thing as lasting fruit. I may not see it, but I know it is there, and so I can say, 'It is worth it.' And yet you and I cannot plan this fruit, and we cannot measure it. We cannot even strategise for it. It is the gift of God."

We praise God for the encouragements and evidences of grace we do see, and continue to rest on the beautiful promise that our labour is not in vain in the Lord.

**LAMIN AND JAYNE
DUMBUYA**

SHOWING GOD'S GRACE TO THE FATHERLESS



MusaweNkosi means “God’s grace” in Zulu. MusaweNkosi was started in 2001 to show God’s grace, particularly to orphans and their carers, in the rural areas around Empangeni, near Durban, South Africa in the face of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. After a year or two of feeling God wanted us to do something, and us saying but we don’t know what to do, we are only a couple and the problem is so big, we did an orphan count in a defined rural area and found over 160 orphans in a 10 square km area.

With Zulu community workers we got to know and assessed the households. There were many where the orphans were loved and cared for, but, also, many where they were neglected, used and abused. Initially we just helped the most needy get to school by paying school fees and providing stationery. We also had several opportunities

through the year to meet with the orphans and their carers to distribute clothes and food and share the gospel.

The community asked if we could look after some of the most needy children and, so, the first house opened in December 2004 and by the end of the year was bursting with 12 children and a house mother. It has been a long and rocky road but, now, we are a registered children’s home that can take 40 children. They live in four houses with Zulu house parents and go to local schools. The children have Bible time and prayers every day, go to a local church and have the gospel lived out for them by many of the carers. It has been a blessing to see many become Christians and be baptised.

A big problem is that most of the children are behind academically and struggle at school. To help them catch up we have an after-

school educational support programme to teach basics in Maths and English and to give children a firm foundation to build on and to get them into the habit of studying.

In Nseleni, a nearby township, we set up a feeding scheme in partnership with a local church. The “informal” township is poor, has many orphans, and the usual problems of neglect and abuse of many kinds. Two church ladies, led by Mama Shandu, visited set areas, getting to know households and needs. About 50 children were invited to the feeding scheme, coming after school for a hot meal, a time to hear a Bible story and learn verses, and, when we have the personnel, to help them with their school work. Mama Shandu and others visit the households the children come from once a month to take food and clothes when we have them and to help sort out administrative problems such

as getting birth certificates and ID documents, and to share the gospel. Through this the Sunday School has grown, and care givers have come to church and to know the Lord.

We have purchased land at Nseleni and want to build our own premises so that in addition to the feeding scheme we can have a pre-school using Christian content. Then we plan to develop other projects such as sewing, knitting, computer skills, music, sport, adult literacy. Through these we will make contact with different segments of society, to build relationships and to be able to share the gospel. In order to set up these activities we will need people with the skills to do them!

We did an orphan count in a defined rural area and found
OVER 160 ORPHANS
in a 10 square km area



We rely on volunteers to run the education support programmes. These volunteers also go into local schools two mornings a week to help at a community level. As a result we have use of schools for Holiday Bible Clubs and the opportunity to share the gospel with 150 to 200 children per programme. To run programmes we need a steady supply of volunteers and we have been blessed to get them from Germany! We have been trying to get contacts to get people from the UK, USA and other English

speaking countries on a regular basis, so far without success. We would welcome any suggestions about how we might do this!

Most volunteers are gap-year students coming for 6 to 12 months and they have done a great job. We would like a couple, or even two couples, to come full-time on a long-term basis. There are so many opportunities we could take up but, because we both have jobs and do Musa as a part-time ministry, we cannot. Other schools are asking for help; there is work that could be done encouraging and building

up the house parents; there are opportunities in the local community and Nseleni has so much potential; there is also the possibility of another children's home; we often turn away several children every week because the home is full.

Any ministry has many needs. We need prayer and spiritual support; there are always financial needs, at the moment the biggest need is for the building at Nseleni, but we pray most of all for long-term personnel commitment.

GAVIN CHARLTON





CHRISTIAN LOVE IN CONGO

Ted Witmer and Wesley McKnight, are Crossworld (formerly UFM International) missionaries serving in Congo, based in Bunia. Ted and his wife Dana, who is a doctor, have served in Congo for many years and are a vital link in keeping us informed of the situation and in facilitating the financial assistance churches and Christians in the UK continue to send to our brothers and sister in Congo.

The Democratic Republic of Congo continues to be in the news. Unfortunately, that is because there continue to be mass displacements (over 4 million displaced, the most of any country in the world), violence and widespread rape. The President's term of office ended in December 2016, but he continues in power and elections to choose his replacement are still very much in doubt. Aid for the country is being limited more and more and the economy is in decline. Inflation, which had been well controlled for about

10 years, has resumed and the value of local currency has almost halved in the last year.

In the midst of this pain, the Church continues to be light and love to those who are hurting. In February and March, violence flared up in the area North and East of Bunia near Crossworld's partner institution Shalom University. In the course of about two weeks nearly 50,000 people fled into the city. They arrived on foot with nothing but the clothes they were wearing. About 10,000 set up house in huts under tarpaulins on the property of

the Bunia General Hospital under the supervision of the hospital Chaplain. They were in crisis and even the aid agencies were unprepared. How would they survive?

On the first Sunday after the displaced began arriving, it was blazing hot. The pastor of the main church in Bunia, trained at Shalom University, preached on Abraham's dramatic hospitality of three strangers, one of whom turned out to be God himself. He invited a refugee family up to the front and they told their story of flight. At the end of their story the pastor started

singing and the people began to stream forward to give a love offering for the displaced. Soon a large pink laundry basket was overflowing with bundles of money. This came from the people of a city where a £70 a month is a good salary.

The pastor then announced that for the entire week the church was going to have prayer meetings from 2-5pm every day until the following Sunday to pray over the situation and to prepare for a bigger offering the next Sunday. The pastor went on to call out individual groups in the church. We need £50 from this Bible study group, £50 from that one, from the merchants in the church we need £100, from the public service personnel we need £100, from teachers £100, etc. He said we need your best food, we need clothes. Bring them all next Sunday.

They delivered. The following Sunday, the offering was even larger. Trash bags of clothes were passed over people's heads to the front as well as food items. One of the refugees said he raised

chickens, for which he could get £8 each. The pastor held up a live chicken by its feet starting a bidding war in the congregation. The winner was a well-dressed gentleman... he bought a chicken for £150.

For a month, the Christians throughout Bunia continued to provide the main support for the displaced who had suddenly arrived. Eventually aid agencies got organized to help. The government deployed troops to restore some order to the region. But the initial first line of response was clearly the Church in a sustained and committed effort to help the "least of

these" (Mt. 25:40). Fifteen years earlier, many of the people of Bunia, now over 1 million in population, had themselves been displaced and the population of the city shrank to just 30,000 as people fled to the countryside. As they had been helped in their time of trial, they now helped those from the countryside who needed their assistance and the Church led the way (see 2 Cor. 1:3-4). Please continue to pray for the Democratic Republic of Congo and to give to help the Church grow stronger.

**TED WITMER
AND WESLEY MCKNIGHT**



CARCASSONNE TERRORIST ATTACK: A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

Terrorism hit France again on Friday 23rd March and the nation was in shock. The attack in Carcassonne and Trèbes left four people dead and many injured physically and psychologically. French people are sad, angry and indignant.

As Christians, how should we react? What thoughts should guide us?



We want to weep with those who weep (Rom 12.15). We want to pray for those who suffered the loss of a loved one. We want to pray for them to find their consolation in God.



"Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honourable in the sight of all" (Romans 12:17). While

the anger and indignation is overwhelming, we must remember these lessons and pray for the suffering family of the terrorist. Let us pray for the Muslim community, knowing that they, too, are suffering. Not all Muslims are terrorists. Torn between the murderous ideology of Islamist terrorists and a society that regularly asks them to publicly dissociate themselves from these acts, even when they have nothing to do with them, French Muslims today live in a complex situation.



What effect does this kind of event have on Christians and their ministries? While Christians may be more afraid of radical Islam, our Muslim friends are actually more open than ever to the Gospel. God is sovereign! He is never

surprised by the events of our lives and he knows what he is doing. It is he who is able to transform evil into good by opening the eyes and hearts of all those who do not yet know him.



Julie is forty and has a husband and a little girl. Because she couldn't find a job in line with her qualifications, she worked as a cashier in a supermarket for over a year. This is the lady with whom 44-year-old Lieutenant-Colonel Arnaud Beltrame voluntarily exchanged places. He knew that the terrorist's intention was to "kill people in uniform". The terrorist had already killed three people, and his morbid, suicidal determination did not suggest anything good. Arnaud was almost certainly doomed.

But he didn't hesitate. The rest is history. Julie kept her cool, remaining a long time under the threat of a weapon held at the back of her neck. Today, she is miraculously alive and well, while another woman grieves the loss of her beloved, the man she was to marry in June. Julie said, "He gave his life for me, he was killed so that I could live."

One word has been heard repeatedly since the announcement of Arnaud's death: sacrifice. Tributes include terms such as hero, admiration, respect, example, generosity, commitment, service... His gesture astonishes and challenges. It drives us to consider the most fundamental questions of life and death. What could motivate someone to give his life for another? A popular French newspaper gave an answer in the headline: **"Only faith can explain the madness of this sacrifice."** Arnaud's family members, close friends and colleagues speak of his open Christian faith. He seems to have had an authentic conversion to Christianity at the age of 33.

Speaking of Arnaud, the chaplain of the Gendarmerie National said, "He did not hide his faith. In fact, he radiated it. His sacrificial act was in line with what he believed. He went to the limit in his service for his country and his testimony to his faith. To believe is not only to adhere to a doctrine. It is first to love God and your neighbour, and to testify of your faith concretely in everyday life."

For Christians, Arnaud's sacrifice recalls that of Christ, the mediator between God and men. For millions, Lt. Col. Arnaud Beltrame is a hero, but to the female survivor he willingly swapped places with, he is much more. He is a saviour. This is also what every Christian feels about Jesus. He gave his life so that we could live - we who were his enemies. "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friend" (John 15:13). What an extraordinary source of hope in the midst of darkness! And how wonderful that the Lord is using for good what others intended only for evil.



The Carcassonne-Trèbes drama forces us to face the inevitable

reality of death, and the great questions of life. The terrorist obeys a suicidal logic, in contrast to Arnaud Beltrame, who gave his life to protect others. In both cases, there is an encounter with death. The terrorist, fascinated and hypnotised by death, seems to be looking for it, for others and for himself... while Arnaud engages his life to defend another life, in a dynamic of giving and grace... We are here at the extremes of a torn reality between darkness and light.



The terrorists want to put France on her knees ... They will succeed only in putting Christians on their knees in prayer for France! Islamist extremism, whatever its roots, must be fought in prayer, love and the power of our Christian witness. Let us, therefore, not be paralyzed by fear or animated by hatred. Pray for France and pray also for our enemies!

HICHAM



A LIGHT SHINES IN CARRIGTWOHILL



Imagine a growing town with schools, shops, industries, clubs, sports and everything else a modern town ought to have, except for one thing: a church that faithfully proclaims the gospel. Imagine a town that has in fact never had an evangelical church in it, even though it has a very long history. For the last 9 years, we have been living and working in the Republic of Ireland, where we don't have to imagine a town like this. We live in one, and there are dozens more in the areas around us.

Now imagine a Baptist church in the heart of Cork City, on the south coast of Ireland, established in the 1600's. Imagine a small group of believers there in the early 1980's, who were thrilled to see God beginning to grow their

fellowship, as well as their vision. The church starts to think beyond their own city towards a dream of seeing churches all around them in the many towns and villages that simply have no access to the gospel. Although they didn't have the manpower or resources to make this happen, they prayed and asked God to do it anyway. God answered, and soon they were able to plant a new church in a nearby town to the south. A few years later, God provided, and they planted again to the east. Later, a team of missionaries helped plant a church to the west. Years later, Cork Baptist once again gave some of its most committed members to another new plant on the south side of the city. Almost 10 years ago, the first 'granddaughter' church

was planted by one of the early plants, further to the east, followed by a second granddaughter church to the south. All of these churches, plus a few more who joined in to help, continue to be committed to the original vision of seeing a gospel-proclaiming church in every community in the counties of Cork and Kerry, which is why the partnership is now known as the Cork/Kerry Project.

Charraig Thuathail

CARRIGTWOHILL

In the last few decades, God has provided above and beyond what anyone imagined when this work began – but that doesn't mean that the vision is finished. Most of the churches are still small, outreach is still hard, and

growth is slow. One of the planted churches has recently announced that it will close, after years of difficulty. The spiritual battle is real, and beyond these churches there are still dozens of towns and villages that continue to live in the darkness, having no local witness to the gospel.

Which is why it is so important for the Cork/Kerry Project to continue to push forward. Currently, there are Project churches and Christian workers focusing outreach on two new areas with the goal of eventually seeing new churches planted. One of those areas is the growing community of Carrigtwohill, just to the east of Cork city, where our family moved in December to join Middleton Evangelical Church in their vision of church planting.

Carrigtwohill is a town that is booming with new industry, new shopping areas, and large new housing developments. It is one of the fastest growing towns in Ireland, almost doubling in size in just the past 10 years, and the Cork County Council has drawn up plans to nearly double the size again in the coming years. Many of the people who are moving to Carrigtwohill are young couples and families, often with small children. They are moving into a new community, looking for new connections, and building a new life. The need to bring the light of the gospel into Carrigtwohill has never been more urgent, and the opportunity right now is incredible.

Imagine a local group of believers in Carrigtwohill who could faithfully share the wonderful good news of salvation with their neighbours, new and old. God is working: He has already brought together

a group of a dozen local Christians who meet weekly to study his word and pray. Would you pray with us that God would build his church, and shine his light in Carrigtwohill?

SETH LEWIS



GOSPEL OUTREACH IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE AND MALI



We praise God for safety in travelling and for the smooth running of the car and film equipment and for those who professed faith



In March, which is the month when the temperatures are too hot for people to work in the fields, Fidel took a trip up north, near the borders with Mali and Burkina Faso. He joined four pastors in their evangelistic film campaign amongst a strongly Muslim and animistic population. Three pastors were based in Côte d'Ivoire and one in Mali. Roughly a week was spent in each main village, subsequently making day visits to other villages in the area where the pastors are

working. The journey just to get to 'base camp' took Fidel two days, with a break in Bouaké, and, after driving 1,652kms, he finally arrived. The round journey involved driving more than 2300kms. The weather was hot and dry with temperatures reaching up to 42°C.

Fidel found this people group to be heavily attached to fetishes, with children being initiated into this practice from the age of eight. Several times during the visits they were threatened, including

being told they would set fire to the site planned for the film outreach, or have their fetishes cast a 'spell' to disrupt the film, or having a radical animistic group threatening to come to attack them if they showed a film. In another village, the only water available was a well provided by a Muslim group, so folk were told that if they became Christians they would not be allowed to use the well, which would mean walking a long way to find safe drinking water.

In one village, where there had been many threats, a large scorpion appeared in the crowd in the middle of the film and later a snake. They were both killed by the Christians, and the film continued. In that village several people said they wanted to follow Christ and they have opened a church there. Please pray for these people and their pastor as he follows up the work; for protection and that the new Christians will stand firm in their faith.

The planned programme was intensive. Mornings were used to follow-up those who had come forward after the previous evening film and also the local Christians. This was done through a series of short films on discipleship. In the afternoons, they would drive to the village scheduled for that night. When they arrived, they would visit the village chief, do door-to-door visitation, set up the equipment and, then as darkness fell, Christian music was projected before the film was shown, with an appeal being made before the end of the film. After everything was finished they would travel back to the main village, often on very narrow bush tracks.

In all, the team visited a total of 21 villages, travelling 3,450kms, with many people saying they wanted to follow Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, and two new churches being planted.



The team in the north have various projects with a view to becoming more self-sufficient. Because there are few Christians, many of whom are women and children, the financial support of pastors is minimal. The projects they are planning to help raise funds to build churches and houses for the pastors, instead of renting, include raising chickens to supply and sell eggs; a machine to grind corn; and a ladies' group is buying a plot of land to plant peanuts, so they can make peanut butter to sell down south.

We praise God for safety in travelling and for the smooth running of the car and film equipment and for those who professed faith. Please pray for the four pastors and the Christians who will be following up the new believers. Pray for those

who have given their lives to the Lord when they face threats and persecution. Pray especially the many children who have accepted the Lord, because they are beaten by their parents and the women who have a very low status in this area. Pray for wisdom for the pastors in dealing with the families of those who have been converted, for training and resources for those working with the children and for funding for the planned projects.

We thank God for his help, strength and protection throughout the month. Another visit to this area is scheduled for same time in 2019. Thank you for your prayers for this ministry. Please continue to pray for the proclamation of the gospel in Côte d'Ivoire and Mali.

**FIDEL AND YVETTE
TCHOUMOU**



ENCOURAGING AND EQUIPPING THAI CHRISTIANS TO REACH INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Every Tuesday lunchtime at a university in central Bangkok, a small group of students meets together. They study the Bible, share and pray together and talk about how they can live for Christ on their campus. These students are not Thai, instead they come from Indonesia, the Philippines, Myanmar, China and Germany and they use English as they meet. They are part of a growing number of internationals coming to study at Thai universities.

Globally many students are now choosing to study abroad. The numbers are growing rapidly, especially in East Asia, with countries such

as China, Malaysia and Japan aiming to significantly increase the numbers of international students studying in their countries in the next few years. Compared to other countries in the region, Thailand doesn't have the same quantity of international students, but, still, the numbers here are growing, and universities are offering an increasingly wide range of courses taught in English.

International student ministry in Thailand started in 2011, when UFM missionaries Johnny and Ann McClean were invited by Thai Christian Students (TCS) to start a ministry reaching out to

international students. The work remains small, but over the years it has been exciting to see international students introduced to the person and work of Jesus Christ, and for others, who come to Thailand already believers, to be encouraged and built up in their faith. At present, small groups of international students meet together at four universities around Bangkok.

Joy was brought up in a Catholic family in the Philippines. After finishing school she received a scholarship to study at a university in Bangkok. When she arrived she met a group of Christians at her university who really welcomed and befriended her, and, soon, she started



attending Christian meetings with them. As she listened she came to realise that she had never understood the good news of the gospel, and soon, she committed her life to Christ. She continues to grow in her faith, encouraged by the regular campus Bible studies and the Christian fellowship around her.

The international ministry is quite fragile and unstable and has seemed particularly so this year. Personally, I have often felt unable to fulfil all that is required as the only full-time worker. But I have begun to see how God works in our weakness; because through this situation God has begun to answer a much bigger request. Ever since international ministry started in TCS we have been longing for it to be more integrated, and for Thai Christians, especially students, to accept the opportunity, responsibility and privilege of reaching out to the international students in their country, city and campus. As our weakness and

inability has become apparent, others have got involved! It has been my privilege to work alongside some very gifted Thai students and staff, and see how they have begun to have concern for, and befriend, the international students around them.

This year, for the first time, some of the Thai Christian student leaders from the oldest university in Thailand came to help us at the orientation event for new international students. They spent time introducing themselves to the students and inviting them to the Christian club. After that, they joined some of the new students for lunch together, introducing them to some delicious Thai food. That was the beginning of friendships that led to one Japanese student coming to the campus Bible study each week, and developing an increasing openness to explore the Christian faith.

Pan is a linguistically-gifted second year Thai student, fluent in English and studying Japanese in his spare time. This

year he has begun to get to know some of the international students who have joined the Bible study on his campus. He has helped to teach them Thai and they have helped him with his English and Japanese. These relationships have made him more aware of the international students in his faculty, and he now has a burden to reach out to them. He plans to join his faculty's committee organising cultural events for exchange students, so that he can have more opportunities to get to know them and share the gospel with them.

This is still only the beginning, but we pray that increasingly Thai students and the Thai church will look outwards, and see beyond their own neighbourhood and nation, to others who also desperately need the gospel. We pray that international ministry, and welcoming and befriending internationals, might be the first step for many in developing a heart for global mission. It's an exciting time!

RUTH DUFFIN





IN THE MIDST OF JOY AND CHALLENGES

When you see a colleague with his family at church you cannot but be grateful to God that a long chain of conversations, with the convincing power of the Holy Spirit, have made them want to come to listen to God's Word and learn more about him. When you receive a text message from a church plant that the church members stayed on after the Sunday service, and left for their homes at 2pm, you know it is God's doing. By the way, the service started at 9:30am! These are just some examples for our encouragement, but one thing is common in both, like in many other instances, the hunger for the Word is what can be said of them all. This is my greatest encouragement that God is working for his glory and extending the Kingdom through his Son.

Hungarian people can be said to be honest; they are ready to

share their life story without any hesitation. There is little "beating about the bush" in the attitude of the Hungarians and, often, you find yourself listening to people as they pour out their hearts. When, in such conversations, you are able to direct them to God you know that it is really is a God-prepared opportunity for witness.

When you ask an Hungarian "How are you?" you'd better have time to listen, because they will tell you!

Another joy I cannot hide is that our oldest daughter, who is eight years old this year, is keen to accompany me to Sunday services at two churches I often visit. Then on the way home from the services we can discuss what she heard and how she much she understood it. Every father knows that it is a joy to share the gospel with their children. I know that the Sunday School

has been preparing the way into her heart, but I am just pleased to see her interest and continue praying.

As a local church, we are also encouraged that we have seen a smooth transition in the ministry when it passed from our previous pastor to a newly-called young man. However, it takes much wisdom and prayer to work out a mission strategy in the church. We are responsible for three churches, a main church and two daughter churches each with their own building. The pastor and I meet to talk about opportunities and ways to share the gospel and also how to tackle the challenges that there are in a re-established small daughter church. There is a small congregation at this church but would it be good to see an increase in numbers.

Another challenge I face in Hungary is balancing the demands of my working life alongside my ministry



commitments. It is not easy to juggle the various tasks and I find it hard to spend the time I would like to spend on each. However, on the one hand this makes me more understanding, as I realise from experience how busy life can get, and on the other hand my working life provides opportunities for witness for which I am really grateful.

You might have come across news about the results of the recent election in Hungary. Just like Brexit I imagine, this polarises opinions with people, including Christians,

taking different views and being in diametrically opposing corners. However, this and similar hotly-debated subjects, cannot be allowed to overshadow the communion we enjoy

as God's people who know that, ultimately, our citizenship is in heaven, and from where we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:20).

BURJAN TAMÁS



NEW TO UFM

Maxime and Demelza Soumagnas

Maxime is French and came to faith as a teenager through the death of a Christian friend who had often witnessed to him and was the son of missionaries.

Demelza is from Cornwall and trusted Christ as a child, but really began to grow as a Christian at university through a church with clear, faithful Bible teaching. Both Maxime and Demelza have completed the Cornhill Training Course and had ministry experience in London, and Maxime attended the Belgian Bible Institute for three years. Their sending church is Euston Church, in Bloomsbury, London and they are members of the Église Évangélique de La Garenne-Colombes. They have two sons, Joshua (4) and Noah (2). Maxime and Demelza are serving in Bordeaux alongside Alan and Pat Davey.

Maxime spent his first year in the UK working in Cambridge with Friends International. It was his first experience of Christian ministry and training which made him want to get more of it. During his time in Cambridge, in St Matthew's



Church, Maxime started to realise that France was a place that really needs the gospel as much as any country around the world. God slowly worked in Maxime's life for him to see the spiritual needs of his peers in his own country.

Demelza studied French and Spanish in Cambridge. She served for a year with the GBU in Paris and was also involved in InterAction camps in France. God was

also slowly working in her life to see that France needs the gospel. Demelza started the Cornhill Course a year before Maxime and they finally met in London. They started to work together amongst French people in London.

Maxime is now the director of one of the InterAction camps. Every summer, they both love sharing the gospel with the next generation of British and French campers.



Alex and Wijneke Kanri

Alex is from Togo and came to know the Lord in his early 20s through a Bible teaching church. He has been an elder and preacher in the Church of Grace in Christ in Togo and is currently studying at the Belgian Bible Institute, with one more year to do. Wijneke is from the Netherlands and, although she grew up in a Christian family, it was through

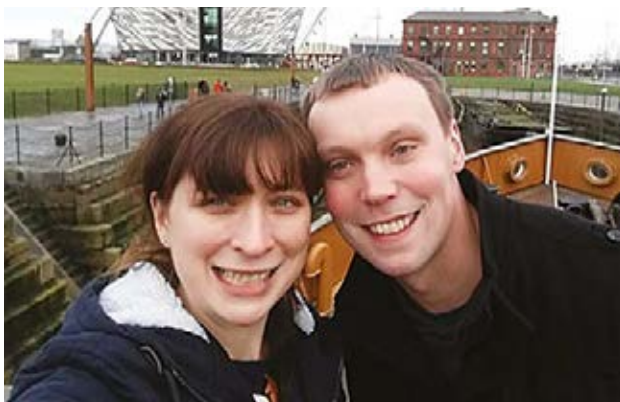


longing to know Christ for herself that she moved to the UK after her nurse's training, and came to full assurance of faith. She went on to study at The Evangelical Theological College of Wales (now Union School of Theology). They

have two children, Neline (5) and Neik (3). Alex and Wijneke feel called to church ministry in Togo, where they have already spent five years of their married life. Their sending church is in Rotterdam.

Andrew and Rachel Millar

Andrew and Rachel Millar are members of Glengormley Baptist Church in Belfast. Andrew's father serves on the UFM Irish Committee and has been involved with UFM for many years. Rachel's family are new to UFM and were able to obtain an insight into the organisation during the Spring Conference.



Andrew is a Civil Engineer and Rachel a Nursery Assistant. Both have worked in the same companies for over nine years. Their call is to work in Southern Ireland, initially alongside a small church plant, with a view to helping to plant other churches in the future. They are currently involved in their home church through the Sunday School and youth work. Andrew serves as a deacon and Rachel is on the Women's Fellowship committee.

They are both currently studying part-time. Andrew is in his first year of a Masters of Theology degree at the Irish Baptist College, with two years to go. Rachel has just completed her second year of the Women's Study fellowship course at Belfast Bible College, with one year to go.

In their spare time, Andrew loves keeping in contact with the 'lads' from the church, going out playing pool, walking or going for

random drives. In her spare time Rachel loves going shopping, going for coffee with the 'girlies' and making crafts. They are kept busy by their two nephews and niece who are constantly on the go.

They hope to go to Ireland in 2020 and are currently seeking God's guidance for their ministry as they explore where and how they would be best placed to serve.

WHAT'S ON

Family Conference

13-17 August at Hothorpe Hall,
near Market Harborough

Bible Ministry: Michael Prest,
UFM Director

This conference is open to all
interested in knowing more
about UFM.

For more information contact
Rachel Lambert

Email: rachel@ufm.org.uk

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 14 August at Hothorpe
Hall at 5pm (Family Conference)

Making Disciples By All Means

Saturday 14 July 2018
(10am-4pm)

All Nations Christian College,
Ware SG12 8LX

A free one-day conference for
people from all walks of life
committed to using their gifts to
gather new believers into Christ-
centred churches. Michael Prest
will be a guest speaker.
Email: karen@sim.co.uk

Glasgow Thanksgiving Evening

Friday 5 October 2018
(7.30-9.00pm)

Trinity Possil & Henry
Drummond Church, 2 Crowhill
Street, Glasgow G22 6SR

For more information contact
Iain Cameron.

Email: iain@ufm.org.uk

SUMMER TEAMS

Please pray for safety in travel
and for spiritual blessing for
the Summer Teams:

21 June-8 July South Africa

6-16 July Greece

9-20 July UK

21 July-4 August Moldova

COMINGS & GOINGS

COMINGS

June

Anderson family to the UK
Luke, Heidi and family to
the UK

Ruth Duffin to the UK

July

Dumbuyas to UK (tbc)

Rosie Crowter to UK

Paula Harris to UK

Clark family to the UK

August

Merv and Kim Neal to UK

Lydia Adams to UK

Sandell family to UK

GOINGS

June

Bosco and Heidi Bukeera
to Uganda

July

Ruth Duffin to Thailand

September

Clark family to Greece

David and Bertha Barnes
to Peru



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4 Corners is the magazine of UFM
Worldwide, Registered Charity in
England and Wales (No. 219946)
and in Scotland (No. SC039343)

GDPR: ACT NOW TO STAY IN TOUCH



You will, no doubt, be aware of changes to Data Protection legislation which comes into force on 25th May 2018. We recently contacted all of our supporters seeking consent to continue sending information about UFM. This request was made by email to those for whom we hold an email address and by post for everyone else. If you have not yet responded, please do so either by returning the form in the pre-paid envelope that was sent with the letter or go to the following link on our website to register your preferences: www.ufm.org.uk/data. If we do not receive your consent this will be the last edition of 4Corners you will receive from UFM. If you have any questions relating to this, please email: data@ufm.org.uk. Thank you for your support in this important matter.