



AN OPEN DOOR FOR PRISON MINISTRY IN BELÉM

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BY BEING A
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AN UPDATE



Dear friends,

As we begin another new year, it's such a joy to know that we invest together in something that will last, we partner together in something that all of history points towards and we serve together knowing our labour is not in vain!

'... and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.' Revelation 5:9.

There's so much to be thankful for as we look back over the past year at UFM, and much to pray about as we look ahead. I hope this short summary of what's going on across the UFM family will be an encouragement for you and a spur to continue in prayer.

1. God is raising up workers for his harvest fields

18 long-term missionaries joined UFM in 2018. They will be serving in areas such as; church planting in France, Ireland & Uganda, and evangelism in Central Asia and Croatia.

UFM now serves 175 long-term missionaries, sent from 90 gospel-hearted churches.

In 2019 we are relaunching our short-term mission

opportunities to better serve churches, including a new cross-cultural ministry training programme and a partnership with UCCF's Relay Homestart programme for people serving short-term in student ministry in Europe.

Give thanks:

- That God has been raising up workers for his harvest fields.
- For partner churches willing and eager to send workers cross-culturally.
- For a new partnership with UCCF's Relay Homestart programme.
- For a number of staff appointments to better support the growing work.

Please pray:

- That as missionary numbers grow our relationships with sending churches and missionaries will stay close and strong.
- For wisdom as we continue to work on strengthening our support structures to accommodate the growth and build capacity for the future.
- Particularly for new office space for the Swindon team.
- For God to go on raising up workers for his harvest fields, particularly in areas where there is very little, if any, opportunity to hear the gospel.

ON THE WORK OF UFM

2. The gospel is making progress

UFM missionaries are committed to making disciples of all nations, loving people in actions and in truth, believing that God's Word taught in the power of the Holy Spirit changes lives.

Much of the fruit of the work that UFM missionaries are involved in won't be seen until eternity, yet we have the joy of seeing snippets of what God is doing in people's lives.

Give thanks for:

- A young lady who recently came to faith and was baptised in Eurasia, in a country where less than 0.1% are evangelical Christians. She was first contacted by a UFM worker seven years ago who was giving out flyers for a student English conversation club.
- A new French church launched in Bordeaux in September 2018.
- Not infrequent reports of conversions over this last year in places such as Greece, Ireland, Middle East, Kenya and France.
- Over 1,000,000 scripture portions linked to the 100Fold project that were downloaded in Muslim majority countries in 2018. Over 300,000 of these were opened and read for at least 10 minutes.

Please pray for:

- A fledgling church among a people in the Middle East, the first in that city that is in the local language.
- Open hearts among the least reached people in parts of the world where there are very few believers and where UFM missionaries are serving – Middle East, Central Asia, South Asia, SE Asia, Eastern Europe.
- For those involved in early church planting efforts in various parts of France, Uganda, Ireland, Kenya and Italy, for perseverance and open doors of opportunity.
- For those UFM missionaries facing significant times of trial – a number with cancer, some with family issues, others feeling the burdens of ministry heavily in challenging places.

3. The mission movement is a global movement

The UFM missionary family now includes people from 27 different nationalities sent by churches in six different countries. Over the coming year we hope to consider how best to support the development of our small office in the USA, as well as learning more about emerging mission movements in the majority world.

Give thanks for:

- UFM missionaries serving to support a new mission movement in East Asia.
- Organic growth in the work of UFM USA and for the churches in the USA who are interested in our model of mission.

Please pray for:

- Wisdom in thinking over how best to engage with emerging mission movements in the majority world.
- Cross-cultural sensitivity within the UFM family.

Thank you for your partnership in the work. What a joy to serve together!

Do look out for a few changes in our communications over the coming year – all of which we hope will serve you more effectively. A new prayer calendar will be launched for the March-April issue, combining the existing Prayer Calendar and Prayer Diary. You'll also notice a new look to 4 Corners magazine from the next edition in May.

If you don't already receive these regularly and would like to, please do contact the office or sign up online at www.ufm.org.uk/contact/signup

With very warm greetings in Christ,

MICHAEL PREST





AN OPEN DOOR FOR PRISON MINISTRY IN BELÉM



"Isn't it dangerous?"

This was the reaction of my aunt when I told her about my new ministry in Brazil, "Isn't it dangerous?" But, to be honest, I had never really thought about it. I took to the work and these youngsters straight away and didn't really think about it being dangerous. After a number of years of working with kids on the streets of Belém, this was a different setting but often the same troubled backgrounds. Let me explain the context of our work: each day I and a colleague visit up to three of the 11 prisons just outside Belém. Each male prison caters for an age group ranging from 13 to 21; there are fewer girls so they are all together. Some prisons have recently been refurbished and are quite



nice, though not for long. Others are filthy, smelly and claustrophobic where there are up to five in a cell. The crimes are the same in each prison being mainly assault (robbery, usually with a weapon) on the street or in a home, but many have murdered or raped. I have known a boy

of 13 who was in for raping and murdering his young niece. And even within the world of crime, there are the unacceptable crimes such as rape, murdering your mother and being gay, which means these individuals are separated for their own protection. Our job is to evangelise these youngsters!

The Challenges

Strangely enough the main challenge is not the danger of being attacked, or even hostility, though obviously some kids love their life of crime and don't want to talk about God. For the most part we are respected and liked by these youngsters and they love talking to us. One great challenge is religiosity. Most of our youngsters have had contact with some type of church. They know Christian songs and will even tell inmates in other cells to be quiet when

"I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Luke 5:32

we are speaking with them. But most have mixed up beliefs, including salvation by works, while at the same time seeing God as a Father Christmas type figure who is there to give them what they want – some even ask God to bless their assaults. However, many do realise they are sinful but don't realise the offensiveness of their sin before a holy God. Another challenge is other 'Christian' groups who also have contact with these youngsters and often teach what is not biblical. More positively, though still a challenge, is the follow-up of those who have been converted when they leave the prison as many are from other cities far from

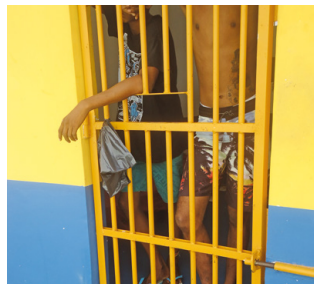
Belém. Unfortunately, some do revert to their old way of life and are even killed because of it.

The Blessings

Jesus said, "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." (Luke 5:32) For me personally it is an immense privilege to speak to up to 40 young offenders a week and tell them of a person who transforms the lives of all who come to him in repentance and faith. I often get to see the same kids and develop a relationship of trust where some, particularly the girls, will really open up about their lives and feelings. But the greatest joy of all is knowing that some have believed and are walking with the Lord. At the time of writing, our team is currently discipling six new

believers inside and outside of prison. What a blessing for me recently to be in a room with our discipleship group of four boys teaching them and hearing them pray for myself and each other. They have their struggles on the inside as well as when they are released; the temptations and trials of the world are not just outside the prison walls and they confess to us their failures. But the Lord is working in them and they want to change. So, is this work dangerous? At times it is. But not everyone has access to these broken lives and how precious to have their confidence, to teach and to pray with these brothers and sisters in Christ whose futures will hopefully be used for His glory.

PAULA HARRIS



THERE WAS NO-ONE TO TAKE CARE OF ME

We work in a small, insignificant country which is officially the poorest country in Europe. It has somehow fallen off the map of the world and its name is regularly air-brushed from newspaper and TV maps

of the area – it is most usually pictured as an un-named country.

We work with a people group who are also totally insignificant in the eyes of this world. They are adults with disabilities who live or have lived in closed institutions in Moldova for most of their lives. Such places are cut off from society and life is marked by cruelty and neglect. These men and women would not hear the Gospel unless someone takes it to them in their institutions.

Gheorghe is 53 years old. He has a mild learning disability and a speech impediment and slight physical



disabilities. Ten years ago he came to live in one of the four houses the Lord has given us – Casa Matei. Before that, he always used to come to the services we held in the institution where he lived. He would usually arrive with his friend Vanya who used a wheelchair. Vanya was born without legs and with cerebral palsy in his upper body and would be



*"He raises the poor
from the dust and
lifts the beggar from
the dunghill – to set
them among princes,
and make them
inherit the
throne
of glory."*

1 Samuel 2:8



tipped out of his wheelchair by others several times each day. Gheorghe would scoop him up in his arms and put him back in the wheelchair. They both listened carefully to the services. I do not remember Gheorghe smiling in those days – he had a wistful look but he was always pleased to see us. He was always very poorly dressed with a string tying his clothing together at the waist.

On the day when he moved to live in Casa Matei, he arrived carrying a dirty sack of clothing over his shoulder. We had to burn the contents subsequently because they were lice ridden. He had a shower and chose new clothing and ate good food that first day. At the end of the day he was beaming. His life has been transformed on every level since then.

Gheorghe is illiterate but over the last months we have taken down his story as he himself recalled it:

"I was with my mother at home until I was five. My mother was thin and ill and



she drank too much. I am very sorry that she left me at the institution. I would have liked to live at home. They took me away in a car to a big building. *(The story continues when he became an adult).*

"You couldn't sleep through the night there as there were always people coming and going. One night I was fast asleep and somebody punched me in the face. I was really scared. I fell out of bed and there was blood coming from my nose and mouth. I was all on my own and there was no-one to take care of me.

Many people died there – of illnesses not of old age. So many of my friends there died. There weren't many doctors.

People used to steal my food from off the plate. Often there was no light and it was very cold. I tried to help a lot of people there. I often had bad headaches. It smelt terrible there.

The priest who visited taught me how to make the sign of the cross and to kiss the icons.

Here, *(at Casa Matei)* I love going to church and I love to pray. Now I understand that Jesus died for my sins and that when I die my body will go into the earth but my spirit will go to heaven. I am absolutely sure now that when I die I will go to heaven.

I wanted to get baptised last year and I'm not a bit sorry that I did!"

MAUREEN WISE

BUILDING THAT WILL LAST

The Wild Atlantic Way is (in the words of the tourist board) an “unforgettable coastal touring route” that takes tourists along the West Coast of Ireland “to enjoy breathtaking scenery and exceptional experiences.” Yet 150 years ago very different travellers discovered the rugged beauty of this region. In the mid-19th century, Anglican missionaries such as Alexander Dallas and Edward Nangle brought the gospel to the most remote western corners of Ireland. These pioneers learned to speak Irish to communicate biblical truth to the local people. They established churches and schools throughout the region and their reports speak of thousands of converts.

Yet if you were to drive this stunning route today, you would pass through village after village without any gospel witness. What happened? As with much in Irish history, the answer is complex and controversial. But one thing is clear: intensive missionary effort and apparent success left no lasting legacy.

We have now been living in Castlebar for over six years. We came to join the work of Calvary Mission, a locally initiated network working to establish biblical churches. God has blessed our network greatly: there are now around 30 full-time Christian workers, and eight new churches meet every Sunday. Sounds impressive, but how can we ensure that, this time, the legacy lasts?

The right foundation

In five years of pastoring our tiny new church in Castlebar, 1 Corinthians 3 has been crucial in shaping my perspective. In a context of immaturity and division, Paul describes the craftsmanship of building churches that last. His first priority is a foundation in Jesus Christ. Obvious, right? But we have met many “Christians” in the West of Ireland whose foundations are shaky. They have been evangelised but never disciplined. Their Christian lives are built on semi-Christian internet teachings rather than solid biblical principles.

So we encourage everyone we meet to open the Bible so they can meet Jesus there. We start as soon as they can read: on Tuesdays at Kids’ Club we work through Colossians together. At Thursday evening Bible study we’ve worked through Romans verse by verse. Over time we have seen people losing their taste for spiritual





junk food and starting to feed from God's Word. On a wider scale, we have monthly meetings for preachers to encourage each other, and Saturday "EQUIP" where we spend a morning digging deeper into a particular issue.

The right building blocks

Once the foundation is laid, it is time to think about laying the blocks. But in the West of Ireland we suffer from a lack of "living stones". That's what 1 Peter calls ordinary Christians who are built into God's spiritual house: regular people who work 9-5, turn up at Bible study, share the gospel haltingly with their friends and invite them to church. Maybe I'm describing you, and you think you're nothing special. Yet without you churches can't grow.

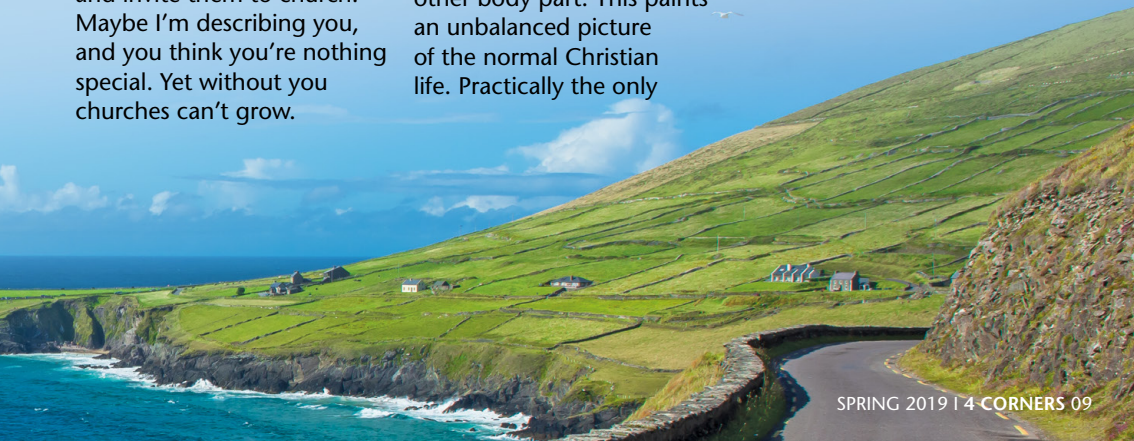
People like you are embedded in the community, living everyday life for Christ in front of local people. But people like you are scarce in our fledgling churches. Conversion and discipleship here are slow, and it takes a long time for local people to get to this point. Some of our congregations are more than 50% missionaries, none of our churches has yet appointed a non-missionary elder, and here in Castlebar only two of our church members are not full-time Christian workers.

To switch biblical metaphors, if church is a body, we have too many mouths and too few of every other body part. This paints an unbalanced picture of the normal Christian life. Practically the only

role models young people see are full-time Christian workers. We need "ordinary" Christians to be role models and "non-missionary missionaries" in workplaces and at school gates. Perhaps what we need is you?

Historically, Irish churches have benefitted greatly from career missionaries from the USA. Yet that door may be closing due to new immigration restrictions. So I finish with a challenge to the UK church: it's over to you now. We share so much in terms of language and culture. Brexit notwithstanding, it is still easier to relocate to Ireland than anywhere else. British accents are common here, yet the number of British Christians who intentionally relocate to support Irish churches is tiny. Our churches need young professionals, growing families, retirees, and yes, even some more missionaries (to initiate work in towns without churches). Would you prayerfully consider "embracing the Wild Atlantic Way of life" and relocating for the gospel?

STEPHEN CHILDS





GOSPEL OPPORTUNITIES AT CHRISTMAS IN SE ASIA

It still feels strange for me when it's hot and all the shops are open and the hustle of the city continues despite it being Christmas Day. The country in which we work continues to be strongly Buddhist but the celebration of Christmas brings so many opportunities to share the gospel.

Over the years more and more shops have realised that Christmas might be a money spinner. You can now buy Christmas trees and there are inflatable snowmen, snowflakes and huge wrapped gifts decorating all the malls. These adverts for Christmas make some of the local Buddhists wonder what Christmas is really about. For those local people who are Christian, Christmas Day is spent at church celebrating together and the decorations of snowy days and gifts are just as alien as to the non-Christians. It's only to the foreigners in the city that the snowmen and gifts hold any

meaning, but, even then, not the true meaning of the season.

The hub of our ministry is our Mission Centre. It is here that Tun Tun, our local partner, and his family live. They are surrounded by Buddhists many of whom are what could be termed fundamentalists. Our aim is to build relationships, gain trust, offer help and prayer, and to live out a Christian life in this area. This is also where our Saturday children's club happens.

When Christmas is approaching, the neighbours start to ask if there will be a Christmas celebration; everybody loves a party, especially when with it comes free food! Unfortunately, there have been restrictions on religious celebrations in past years. These were put in place to stop the hate speech which was often being preached on both sides of the Buddhist/Muslim disputes. The restrictions stopped any

religious events being held in the area of the Mission Centre, which included our Christmas outreach program.

This year, however, it was okay to organise an event. So, of course, we planned an outreach event right there. The preparation begins days before as Tun Tun, his family and willing neighbours, start to peel onions, boil fish, debone the fish, fry the fish and do all the other preparation for the mohinga, a fish-based noodle soup that will be fed to over 200 people. There is a wonderful sense of community as various people come and help cook, set up sound systems and chat. The children and dogs play around as the adults work.

On the morning of the celebration we had planned a special party for the children from our Saturday club. We were expecting about 12 children, had prepared for double that, but even more came. We played games, told the Christmas story, got the children involved in



acting it out, explained why the birth of Jesus was so important and gave them gifts.

Then in the afternoon people started to come and eat mohinga served from the huge bubbling cauldron-like pot. Various small low tables had been set out with stools around. People came, sat down and were served food. They ate and chatted and when they were finished they got up and left. In the evening people were encouraged to come back and many did, although not all. It is then that a short gospel message was shared. They watched a gospel presentation in the local language and then a film on the big screen. The whole day went well with many coming and helping out and many more enjoying the food and the film.

We were very aware that in other parts of the country there has been unrest as Buddhists have become angry at having to listen

to some kind of gospel message, which can often be quite forceful, before being fed. At Buddhist celebrations everyone is fed without having to stay for the “religious” part. Of course, we want everyone to hear the gospel message but this style of eating and leaving is what people are comfortable doing. It’s the way our neighbours know and they are, therefore,

relaxed and happy to come and join us when we do things this way. In the days that follow an event like this we visit people, talk to them and see if anyone has questions about the message they heard.

It might still feel strange to me to spend Christmas in the heat with snowmen around, but it is always a joy to celebrate and share about our Saviour’s birth.



USING DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY TO SPREAD THE WORD

Have you ever seen an instant success? A business or artist that suddenly bursts on the scene from nowhere to accomplish great things. We all look at them and say, “Wow, that was so easy for them, they just launched that effort and are an overnight success.” But when we look deeper,

typically we find that this person was working for years and had many failures before they became an “instant success”. That is what has happened to 100Fold this year.

As you will see in our annual report we have seen more than 1,000,000 people in closed locations engage with Scripture.

That engagement can be as simple as reading a few pages, all the way to reading the entire New Testament. Frankly, we are still trying to comprehend what has happened. However, one thing we know is that this was no overnight success.

We have been working for years developing ways to get Scripture to those

“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”
Eph. 3:20-21





who need it most. Now, after many refinements, we see this very significant result. But that result is not because we are so clever. It is the Lord who is moving in people's hearts to explore the truth of his Word. His Spirit is also prompting them to reach out and ask questions via secure chatting. Those questions were being answered by a partner with trained gospel workers who are native speakers of that language. It was these partners who answered spiritual questions and presented the Gospel.

There were other partners who participated in this work – churches in the USA and UK who sent full-time workers to be on the 100Fold team, and churches who recognised the gifts of their members and encouraged them to serve as volunteers. We

have been blessed to see a 50% growth in the UK team this year.

There is one other partner who has a portion of this harvest – you! You, who have prayed for our health, our families, the success of the work. You, who have given funds and

personal possessions. You, who have shared encouragement with us. Thank you for partnering with us in this wonderful year. Now as we go into the new year we are asking the Lord to do even more, with all of us.



2018 ANNUAL REPORT



30+ partners
around the world



10,100
gospel presentations
in **CLOSED** countries
around the world



2,800 spiritual
conversations in
CLOSED countries



1,000,000+ people received and engaged
with Scripture in **CLOSED** countries



299 professions
of faith in **CLOSED**
countries



3,700 active
theology students



People in
discipleship in
closed countries:
CONFIDENTIAL

KAIROS MISSION SCHOOL – BLESSED BY BEING A BLESSING

I have been living and serving in Romania for six years and it has been such a privilege to be used by God in this time to reach people with the gospel message and to bring the only true hope to people often without any hope. My ministry changed six months ago. I am now involved in what is sometimes called “second line mission” (the training or supporting of those in the front line). I am the coordinator and a teacher at a school which is training Romanians to be missionaries in a transcultural setting.

While working in Romania, I have noticed that although communism ended nearly 30 years ago, and with it the persecution of Christians, it had left behind a legacy in many of the people in the church – a passion to see the gospel preached where the church is still underground and persecution of Christians still goes on. Romania had been truly blessed by missionaries who came into the country after the fall of communism. Now they are seeing that they can get involved and can go out

into the world to tell people the good news of Christ.

Just over 10 years ago, a few people who formed a prayer group for cross-cultural mission decided that they wanted to do more. They started Kairos Missionary Agency and, along with a Pentecostal missionary agency which started around the same time, became the first, and still the only, agencies which are indigenous to Romania and are not part of big Western mission agency.

After Kairos started sending out missionaries, it realised that Christians need training to be fully equipped and effective in mission. For this purpose, Kairos Transcultural Mission School (SMK) was started. SMK was small, with a handful of students living in people’s homes and attending lessons in an upper room of a church. Many of these students ended up going into the mission field better equipped and are still serving today.

After a year’s hiatus, SMK has entered a new phase. It has been relaunched, with a new building and the first full-time staff members, myself and Anca (my wife). We hope to build on the great work the school has already done and increase what is taught and who has access to the teaching.

SMK is a one academic year residential course, focusing primarily on:



Spiritual Identity:

The students seeing their identity in Christ, so when everything else is stripped away on the mission field, it will not cause them an identity crisis but instead make them rely even more on Christ.





Culture and Communication:

That different

cultures and languages are not a barrier to the gospel but can be a bridge to reaching people, as you learn their culture and their language. We are not going into the world to bring our culture but to bring a vital message which is for all cultures.



Evangelism:

We need to be ready in season and out and to be able to give a reason for the hope we have. We need to learn how to explain the gospel clearly to everyone, working out where they already are, what they already know and helping them to take the next step to knowing Christ.

These three modules, together with many other subjects, make a training course which will, by God's grace, grow the students into better servants for our Lord and better messengers of his gospel.



Along with classroom study, we arrange practical field trips, with three short-term mission trips to nearby countries. In November I had the opportunity to lead the students on a trip into the Republic of Moldova. This brought back many happy memories for me, as Moldova was where I had my first real experience of international mission, going there several times with UCCF to teach English and the Bible to students. This was where my passion for international mission started.

The last three months with the students have been among the busiest of my life.

I have had to organise the school and do practical work on the building as well as teaching, but it has been so rewarding. I don't see myself as withdrawing from the frontline but instead training others alongside me, on the frontline.

Romania has started becoming a sending nation in its own right. A country that has been so blessed by missionaries coming in, is now a country being blessed by being a blessing to others, as they send out workers into the harvest field.

ANDREW WORSOP



KAYLA'S* SEVEN-YEAR JOURNEY TO FAITH

How will they hear unless someone tells them?" This was the call to action that rang through my mind as a young Geography undergraduate on my University campus in Reading. Coming here 8 years ago, to this newly modern and constitutionally secular nation, yet officially majority Muslim culture rooted in centuries of Islam, the question remains, but with different challenges. "What does it look like to tell of the love of the Father to people who know little of the Koran yet believe in a general understanding of an 'Allah'?"

Kayla's* journey to faith has been a real encouragement to us. She has written her amazing story in her own words. "In 2012 I remember the very first day when I stopped on that bridge at the entrance of the University to take a look at a leaflet about English conversation groups given by Lawrence, who at a later stage would help me on my journey, sharing some of his knowledge, truth and views on Jesus Christ and Christianity.

I was feeling like I was in a total emptiness, just like I had fallen down in a well, completely isolated in spiritual meaning. Even when I was on the go with

life, education, money, career and family, **I was still searching for something spiritual and unseen that would give me real happiness. I was living as someone who was born and raised in a Muslim culture but to which I never felt I belonged.** Even when I was fasting in the month of Ramadan, I was just showing compliance to my family. When everyone in my family was fasting, I would be the weird one if I didn't do that. It was also difficult when it came to the way I was supposed to dress. According to my conservative family and relatives, "Muslim women shall not wear short-length

"I came to realise that the eyes of my heart were just closed, after which I believe they have been opened by Jesus!"

garments such as shorts above knee-length". None of this made sense to me, and, also, I never truly felt close to the Allah that the Muslim world was teaching me about. I was also far away from love because, before coming to faith in Jesus Christ, I didn't know before that God created this world because he loves all of us!

That summer I hosted foreign students from a summer team who all contributed to the improvement of my English language skills. It was also thanks to my guest from the UK that I went to a real church service for the first time here in my city. While sitting in that chair, **I was listening to the service but still the other half of me was not feeling so comfortable inside – you know, 'What would I possibly be doing here as an adult Muslim!'** Sometime later, I asked a Christian friend how she would describe "love" and without hesitation she said, 'Jesus, the Son of God.' Then I directly asked her, 'How can a prophet be the Son of God? God must be so holy and unique that he

can't have a wife and then give a son to the world!' She explained some historic truths from the Bible about this question. That day after returning home, her explanations slowly started turning the lights on in my mind with this question, 'Can this have any possibility of being true?' But it would be 5-6 years later that I came to understand what she meant!"

Up until graduation Kayla came along. Then after a gap of not seeing her, out of nowhere, one day in October 2017 Kayla showed up at church. She asked to see Melis and I with her question, "Is Jesus God or the Son of God?" Following this, I and another lady

from church started introducing her to Jesus using John's Gospel.

Kayla said: "In February 2018 I was encouraged to finally start my journey with Jesus. That March was the time when I came to realise that the eyes of my heart were just closed, after which I believe they have been opened by Jesus!" In November she was baptised.

Kayla has been a great encouragement to me to remain faithful in planting seeds and patiently waiting for God's timing. Please pray for the growing student movement here and especially for student leaders to be raised up.

LAWRENCE



CHANGE, CHANGE... AND MORE CHANGE

As individuals, and then as a couple, we have for many years felt a tug towards cross-cultural mission, but in what capacity, and where, and when? Indeed, the journey to full-time mission has taken much longer than we envisioned, and at times much longer than we wanted. It has involved diversions and stop-overs, including mission trips to different countries on different continents as individuals and as a family. But God knew exactly what He was doing, with each "delay" being a time of further preparation, leading to growth in our faith in Him, and teaching us skills that He would use in the future. And so, in March 2017 we left Northern Ireland to travel to our current home in Kiwoko,

"Jesus Christ the same, yesterday, today and forever." Hebrews 13:8

Uganda. Leaving behind the familiar, we came to a place where we knew nobody particularly well (we had visited for 2 weeks in summer 2016) and had limited knowledge of what our roles would be. Yet we felt a peace about the unknown. A peace that could only come from God. He had prepared us, He would equip us and promised to be with us always.

Since our arrival our roles have changed significantly. Joel (10) and Oliver (7) have adapted well, embracing change much better than adults often can and do. They love the freedom that comes with living on a rural hospital compound. The

necessary home schooling is now a (relatively) welcomed part of their routine. They currently have a volunteer teacher, Becky Gilmour, a very appreciated change from Mum and Dad! Linda's role has gone from being a 'gap filler' ward doctor, to maternity leave (Timothy was born at the hospital in November 2017), to administrative and teaching roles, and will change further as Timo becomes less reliant on her. Stephen's role has grown significantly and now involves managing the Training Centre and Guest House, with responsibilities in organising elective students, short term volunteers and visitors. This, in addition, to helping with evangelism and



discipleship at the hospital and healthcare training institute based onsite.

One aspect of our role is student ministry – something we had never imagined when coming to a hospital! Stephen oversees evangelism and discipleship work, including small groups with the students at the onsite Healthcare Training Institute (HTI) where 250 students are currently enrolled. During their first semester at HTI all students must attend small groups studying Christianity Explored, an interactive study based on Mark's Gospel. Students come from all backgrounds, so that Muslims and people who have had no interest or exposure to the Christian faith look at the Bible alongside Christians. Therefore, some students, who have not held or read a Bible before, initially struggle to find the relevant passages and may remain quiet during studies. Yet by the end of the semester some of these students willingly participate

and freely discuss the questions. On completion of Christianity Explored, students may attend further Bible studies, and up to 50 people meet weekly for these. Praise God that some students have come to personal faith through the studies and others have been significantly strengthened in their faith.

Another unexpected role is that of hospitality, particularly with visitors and elective students. Elective students come from all over the world and can be of many faiths or none. Being in such a different environment to their "norm" often encourages them to think and question their own beliefs and faith.

No doubt our roles will evolve further, and the changes will continue; some will be more welcome than others. One change we would love to see is for more volunteers and missionaries to come, whether to help in the hospital, to help with home schooling or even take over some of our roles!! But in all the change for us, we know that we have an unchanging God who loves and cares for us, sustains us and is with us every step of the way. Praise Him!

LINDA PARK



KIWOKO HOSPITAL

"We treat... Jesus heals"

Kiwoko hospital was started in 1988 by a GP from Northern Ireland in the notorious Luweero triangle, an infamous area due to its centrality in Uganda's civil war. In the years since the hospital has grown significantly and is now a 30-acre compound employing over 375 staff, with 250 patient beds, servicing a catchment area of over 600,000 people. In addition to providing excellent healthcare, the hospital is involved in mission outreach to staff, patients and the surrounding area.



NEW TO UFM



Paul and Abby Helms

Paul and Abby along with their three children, Silas (6), Ollie (4) and Lewis (2), are from Jackson, Tennessee, USA. Both Paul and Abby were raised in Christian families and came to faith as teenagers. Paul is a Minister of Contemporary Worship and Media Arts at West Jackson Baptist Church where they are members and Abby is a part-time Marketing Director and K-12 Art Teacher at a Classical Christian School. Paul is currently undertaking a MDiv course in Great Commission Studies at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, graduating in July 2019. After that they



plan to go to France where they feel God has opened a great door for ministry in Paris and they anticipate

using their various gifts to help establish a new church plant in the 17th arrondissement at Ternes.



Daniel Brooks

Daniel's family live in Suffolk and his home church is The Forge Community Church in Stowmarket. Daniel has a missional heart for the Croatian people which has grown from a church mission trip in 2012. Having returned to Croatia each year since,

Daniel feels God is directing him to serve there for an extended period. He is currently studying for a BA in Theology at Moorlands College. After graduating in November 2019 Dan will serve in Croatia with UFM's partner organisation, SEND International.

Ben

Ben graduated from the London School of Economics in 2017 and is currently a Ministry Trainee at Christ Church Mayfair where he helps lead the church's evangelism including an International Café, providing international students and visitors with access to

free English lessons, food, friendship and the gospel. Ben's longer-term desire is to be useful to the Lord in church planting amongst unreached people groups. An opportunity has opened up with a team in Central Asia and, God-willing, Ben will join them in September 2019.



NEW STAFF MEMBERS

We are delighted to introduce Mary Hodson and Liz Rajo who have recently joined the UFM staff team to provide pastoral care for our women missionaries.

Mary Hodson

Mary was brought up in a Christian family and became a Christian at the age of 8. She trained as an Occupational Therapist and through this tested out mission opportunities in South Africa and China. However, God gave her the conviction that her role was in the UK, though with a heart for people from other cultures and those in need. In 2003, God brought Mary to Swindon and opened the door to start a church outreach to the homeless. Through this, God led Mary into pastoral ministry within the church, which became a part-time role as a pastoral worker for women. Mary has extensive experience of one to one work with ladies and has been developing her experience in biblical counselling. She has a keen heart for mission.



Liz Rajo

Liz grew up in a non-Christian home but attended Sunday school and loved the Bible stories. Through the CU at secondary school Liz met believers who had a relationship with God and began to understand the gospel. She became a Christian after hearing a testimony by Nicky Cruz about how the Lord had transformed his life. During her time at university Liz was first challenged about mission work and this was later confirmed following a year's short-term service in West Africa and subsequently worked for many years in Madagascar. Liz is based in Gloucester where she attends Trinity Baptist Church. Liz has a great concern for the pastoral care of female missionaries.





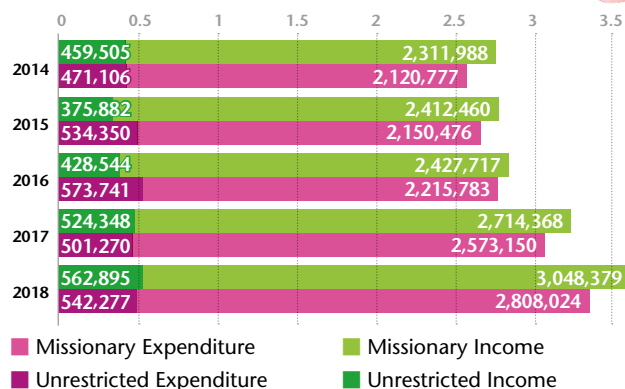
MISSION FINANCE

This is the first time since I became the UFM Treasurer that I have written a financial update for 4 Corners. I would like to start by thanking the entire UFM family for the warm welcome I have received since taking on this role. We are very grateful to God for all the churches and Christians who support the work of UFM. This support is both prayerful and financial and is vital to the ministries of our missionaries and the work of UFM as a whole.

Our latest accounts are for the year ended 31 March 2018 and are available in full on the Charity Commission website. I have tried to summarise some of the key financial aspects.

The chart above shows total income and expenditure over the last five years. The total income for the year was £3,611,274 and total expenditure was £3,350,301.

Total income and expenditure over the last five years (£,000,000)



The chart below, which is in respect of unrestricted funds, shows the different sources of income in green building up to the total unrestricted fund income of £563k together with how that money was spent shown in red leaving a small surplus of £16k.

During the financial year the balance on the General

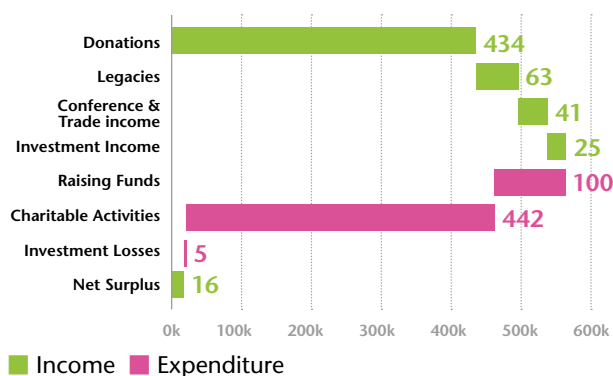
Fund improved from £518k to £576k with the surplus on the General Fund for the year increasing to £188k. This level of general reserves is appropriate for a charity of our size.

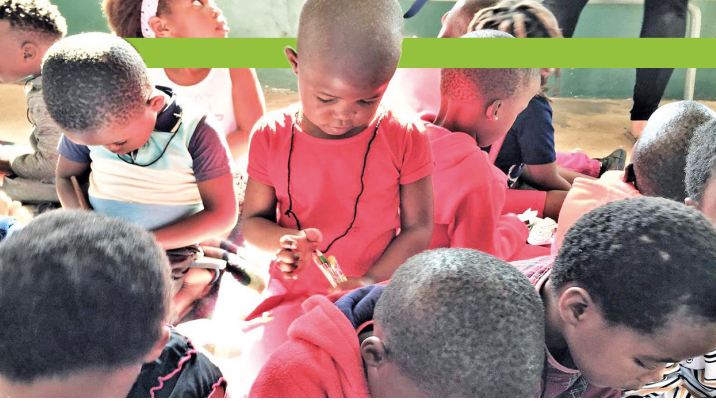
Total funds, including money held to pay future mission support, amounted to £2.3m (2017: £2.1m). These funds are represented by Net Assets. Our main Fixed Asset is the property in Swindon. Investments are managed by Investec to generate more income and some capital growth. The majority of our Net Current Assets consist of cash held in bank accounts.

In our current financial year income and expenditure are broadly where we expected them to be. If you have any questions in respect of UFM's finances, please feel free to contact me.

GRAEME POWELL
UFM TREASURER

INCOME/EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN (£)





SUMMER TEAM TO SOUTH AFRICA

In late June 2018, a team of 5 travelled to South Africa to serve for 2 weeks with UFM Associate Missionaries, Gavin and Elaine Charlton. The main objective was to lead a 5-day Holiday Bible Club following the theme 'Meet the King' for primary aged Zulu children – first in a primary school situated in rural Entoyeni, then repeated the following week in a nearby township, Nseleni.

The first week commenced with around 90 children aged from 3 years upwards with numbers increasing to 150+ daily. Zulu adults and teenagers, many of whom live and work at the children's home, helped with registration and translation!

Every morning on arrival along the dirt track, we were greeted by many eager faces and started the day playing games – all you really need is a ball and to be willing to join in!

After registration, we sang Christian songs in English and Zulu followed by the Bible story which was led by a different team member each day. The children then split into age groups for a quiz based on the day's story, games, memory verse and a relevant craft activity. We had transported craft items for 300 children from the UK!

Some afternoons we visited the children at the orphanage. As it was the school holidays, we played

games, danced, listened to reading and singing and generally had fun! We also visited the beach, a game park and a traditional Zulu village and enjoyed the beautiful countryside, as well as worshipping at Baptist churches in Empangeni and Nseleni and a Zulu church.

It was a real privilege to be able to share the gospel message with these young people – for many it was the first time they had heard about Jesus. We were asked questions such as, 'Why was Jesus white (!) not black?' and, 'Who made God?' During the second week, three girls who attend the local Sunday School at the Nseleni church made professions of faith. Praise God!

We give thanks for the opportunity to serve and pray for ongoing fruit.

RACHEL LAMBERT



WHAT'S ON

Called to Serve

Day Conferences for those 'Gearing Up for Mission' – considering mission for the first time, seeking God's guidance or making the final steps before going.

Saturday 23 March

9.30am – 4.30pm
Heath Church, Cardiff

Saturday 30 March

9.30am – 4.30pm
Breda Centre, Belfast

Irish Spring Day Conference

Saturday 6 April

10.00am – 5.00pm
Seagoe Hotel, Portadown
Bible Ministry by Michael Prest, UFM Director

Scottish Conference

26 – 28 April

Atholl Centre, Pitlochry Bible Ministry by Rev Iain Shaw, Clarkston Baptist Church.

Family Conference

29 July – 2 August

Hothorpe Hall, near Market
Harborough Bible Ministry:
Johnny Prime, FIEC Pastoral
Ministries Director

For more details on these events visit our website: www.ufm.org.uk/whats-on/ufm-events

SUMMER TEAMS

This year the following summer teams are planned:

1 – 12 July

Abingdon, UK:
audio books training
with 100Fold.

11 – 22 July

Brittany, France: rural
evangelism and
community outreach.

16 July – 2 August

Ivory Coast:
children's camp.

19 July – 2 August

Moldova: Casa
Mea project.

5 – 20 August

Bangkok, Thailand:
community outreach.

For more information
and to apply please
visit the UFM website:
[www.ufm.org.uk/
go/summer-teams](http://www.ufm.org.uk/go/summer-teams)

COMINGS & GOINGS

Information about
missionaries visiting the
UK in the coming months
can be obtained from our
Swindon office.

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PRAYER DIARY AND PRAYER CALENDAR

Look out for a few changes in our communications over the coming year – all of which we hope will serve you more effectively. A new Prayer Calendar will be launched for the March-April issue, combining the existing Prayer Calendar and Prayer Diary.

If you don't already receive this on a bi-monthly basis and would like to, please contact the Swindon office, or sign up online at www.ufm.org.uk/contact/signup