

# 4 corners

SPRING 2020



**ufm**  
united for mission

## THE FORGOTTEN PEOPLE OF THE ANDES

Peru

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY  
TAKES BIBLE TRAINING TO  
PASTORS WITHOUT THE WEB  
OneHundredFold

HOW WE'RE SERVING  
CHURCH LEADERS  
Resources

# The needs of a growing work

*Michael Prest, UFM Worldwide Director*



**We praise God that over the last ten years, the work of UFM has more than doubled, from 100 workers to today's 215, plus 50 more on summer teams.**

These are not just statistics, but represent people and churches God has called to go and send. We praise God for all that he is doing through them, such as:

- Supporting the first generation of mission workers sent from Mongolia
- Reports of conversions in places like Eurasia, Greece, Myanmar and Central Asia
- The urban poor and vulnerable adults loved with actions and in truth in Moldova, Thailand and Brazil
- Churches planted in France, Ireland,

the Middle East and Kenya

- The gospel shared in 'closed access' countries through cutting edge IT

It's an immense privilege for UFM to play a part in what God is doing among the nations.

We're careful not to pursue growth for its own sake, but we do pray daily that God would raise up workers for the harvest fields. It is a joy therefore to see more and more people coming forward for mission service.

We're committed to doing all that we can to serve these workers and their churches well. That has already involved a significant staff restructure, ensuring our staff roles best reflect the growing demands of the work.

It has also become clear that our current office lacks sufficient space and facilities to support the growing work.

## **Where we're going**

After a lengthy search, God has opened the door for us to purchase a purpose-built office space at Interface Business Park in Swindon. Just off the M4, it provides all that we've been praying for: a welcoming, modern space; a great working environment; a meeting space; a rest area; the ability to host events; and plenty of parking.

It leaves us with room to grow, as well as being a blessing to other Christian organisations and churches for events.

UFM has always aimed to be light on structure, flexible in approach and diligent in minimising

costs. These principles remain, so we're delighted that following negotiation, we had an offer accepted at 34% below the asking price. Praise God!

We're grateful that the costs of moving have been kept down by the gift of quality office furniture and help in producing internal plans. A volunteer team will be assembled to do as much of this internal work as possible. **If you have gifts in this area that you'd be willing to use, please get in touch!**

### **Investing our money with eternity in mind**

In Luke 16, Jesus tells the parable of the Shrewd Manager. It's a fascinating tale. A wasteful, dishonest manager, is surprisingly commended by his master – not for being dishonest or wasteful, but for being shrewd: using what he had, with the future in mind.

The application is equally striking. Jesus is calling us to be shrewd – to invest our money

with eternity in mind, that one day, we might be welcomed into heavenly dwellings by those who have heard the gospel, because we invested our money in gospel ministry.

Taking into account the sale of our current office, and moving costs, we're looking to raise about £300,000. We're praying that many might catch the vision to invest in this project – not simply buying a building, but investing in the gospel going to the nations.

**Find out more about how to get involved, both practically and financially at [ufm.org.uk/newoffice](http://ufm.org.uk/newoffice).**

Alternatively, please be in touch anytime and we'd be delighted to share more information. Thank you so much for your partnership in the gospel. With our very warm greetings in Christ,

*Michael*



## **FEATURES**

**The needs of a growing work**  
02

**Bodybuilding not bookselling amongst conflict-worn Kurds**  
04

**The forgotten people of the Andes**  
06

**Farewell to Iain**  
08

**God provided a €1.2m building, starting with a cheque in the post**  
10

**From Mongolia to the world**  
12

**Innovative technology takes Bible training to pastors with no web**  
16

## **CHURCH RESOURCES**

**How we're serving church leaders ...**  
14

## **FOCUS ON**

**Sierra Leone**  
19

## **WHAT'S IT LIKE .. ?**

**Leaving grandchildren behind**  
21

**NEW TO UFM**  
18



# Body-building not bookselling amongst conflict-worn Kurds

*Rob\* and Rosina\** serve in bi-vocational ministry in the Middle East

**Radicals approached the shopkeeper and complained that the New Testament was prominently displayed in his shop. Although he is a Muslim, he told them in no uncertain terms that he would continue to display the Injeel prominently.**

I was amazed and encouraged to hear this from the man, as I visited his shop. The New Testament has just been printed in the Kurds' language for the first time. His friends in another non-Christian bookshop in the bazaar had gladly taken a box to sell, and also passed them on to him.

The moment when a people group is presented with its first printed New Testament is a glorious moment and the dedication ceremony here

was no exception. A good number of unbelievers were present and a prominent university hall was provided for the ceremony.

Good though it is that we have the New Testament after 25 years' labour, it is worth remembering that Jesus commanded his disciples not to distribute books but to "make disciples ... and teach people to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matt 28:18-20). Paul pictures this obedience being worked out in the working of a healthy body in Ephesians 4.

Our prayer is not that people will purchase a product like they buy a new JK Rowling novel, but rather that shepherds will be raised up who will understand and teach the book, and equip the church to speak its truths to one another – body-building





not bookselling. One of the griefs of the work here is that few believers commit to careful study of the Bible, though many have disposable time.

As well as the weekly exposition of the Scriptures in Kurdish, we are committed to incorporating the Word of God into the warp and woof of our worship. Much labour in 2018 gave us a folder of benedictions, prayers and a baptism script, and we are trying to co-ordinate a translation of Vaughan Roberts' *God's Big Picture*.

Unfortunately, Bible translation has often been determined by book-publishing goals not pastoral needs. Sadly, the Kurds have no Psalms in the local dialect, when the Psalms speak so well to their situation, preparing our hearts to face suffering with the hope of the Messiah's ultimate victory.

Another issue we face is that there are eight Arabic speaking Protestant churches in the city but it's difficult to grow a view of church as a place where we are givers not takers, all playing a role. Some churches boast state-of-the-art halls funded by overseas money and offer employment opportunities. We feel like the poor relation: a dozen people on the floor studying the Scriptures. But some see our concern with their souls, and are grasping biblical truth.

You will have seen reports of conflict in our region, but in our better moments we rejoice that God is calling a people to himself, even while the secular media push the reverse narrative: that Christianity is dying. Far from it! The launch of the New Testament in Behdini and its being preached and received in unlikely places is a sign that God is doing a wonderful new thing after the church's decline and exodus from Iraq.

*\*Names changed for security reasons*



# Why did you help? – Loving the Andes' forgotten people

*Eduardo and Esmé Zárate serve in evangelism and church planting in Arequipa, Peru*

**“Why did you provide a lorry to transport our children? Why did you share your food with us? Why did you help us?”**

Martina was full of questions when she, three teachers, and ten other mums with their children, came to our home in Chachas. The little group were from Orahuaasto village, 16,000 feet above sea level in the Andes. We'd helped them to travel in a lorry so their children could attend a school activity in a nearby village, and they couldn't stop thanking us.

Martina was amazed to be welcomed with hot chocolate, panettone, and second-hand clothes and toys. She asked why we wanted to help. I answered that it wasn't me, I was just an instrument. It was God who orchestrated every detail of provision because he loved her and was interested in her life and in the children as well. Martina was dubious but she invited me to visit her village.

In 2018, with a group from our church in the city of Arequipa, we did a Christmas mission trip to numerous villages in the Andes Mountains,

including Martina's. The road to her village ended after 45 minutes' drive, so we had to walk the last hour. Martina was astounded to see us. She didn't expect us to keep our word of visiting one day. Not many people would undertake such a journey.

She apologised that she didn't have much to offer to welcome us. We asked her to gather the children and adults together as we had something to share with them. We sat and shared the story of Christmas and the hope it brings in Jesus. She listened very attentively, but wasn't completely convinced that this Jesus could bring hope to her life and her village. Nevertheless, we shared the gifts we brought for her, her children



and those in her village. She invited us to visit her again the next year.

So December 2019 saw us return on a similar mission trip to the Andes. Martina was waiting eagerly and welcomed us warmly. She invited us to the local school where many were waiting. We presented a play that portrayed the reality of people's lives in the mountains – a people forgotten by the authorities, but not by God. We ended with the message that God does not forget people, that he is always calling people to himself through Christ, to walk with us and to never abandon us.

Martina was ready to have an encounter with God and to know Him personally. She accepted Jesus as her Saviour and King. The step of faith that Martina took opened the

door for her neighbour and school village teacher to believe as well.

It is amazing to see God's plans for saving people. It took three years for Martina to come to a realisation of who God is and the gift he gives in Jesus. Amazingly, on this last trip we were joined by a couple who are mission workers able to visit and help these three young Christians grow.

We are thankful to God for this amazing opportunity to witness his outpouring of grace. Our vision was to take the Gospel to unreached villages, and though we are no longer in Chachas, God still uses us to share his wonderful gospel. Please pray for these believers, and others in the Andes. And please pray for us as a family to continue to be faithful to the One who has called us.



# Farewell and thank you to Iain Cameron, Area Director for Scotland



We ask Iain to look back on his years with UFM before he retires in February 2020

## **When did you arrive at UFM and what led you to work as the Director in Scotland?**

It was in July 2002 that I started in the role as the Scottish Secretary for UFM. In God's gracious economy nothing is ever wasted. My first degree was in French and Geography, and then I worked as a farmer for 11 years, before going back to university to study theology in response to a strong sense of God calling me into ministry.

After a brief period working for CARE in their Glasgow office, I felt the Lord leading me into a new sphere of service. I had already applied to become a hospital chaplain, when I was invited by David Carmichael, chairman of the UFM Scottish Committee, to consider the position at UFM which was soon to become vacant. I quickly sensed that this was where the Lord was calling me to serve, and so I applied and my sense of call was confirmed.

A love of languages, an understanding of geography, my ministry training and office experience, and even my farming background (where I learnt a practical approach to problem-solving and experienced literally caring for a flock of sheep!), have all been a wonderful preparation for the work with UFM.

## **What have you enjoyed most about the role?**

I have greatly enjoyed the variety of the role. It has been a real blessing to visit many UFM mission workers in different parts of the world and to see how the Lord is continuing to build his church through their ministries. It has also been a great joy to share the vision for world mission in churches all over Scotland, and to introduce our mission workers to the many faithful UFM supporters around the country. My annual trips to Shetland have been a particular highlight, although I will not miss



the often stormy ferry crossings from Aberdeen to Lerwick!

Over the years I have also enjoyed leading summer teams, and seeing the Lord work in and through young people on the teams.

### **What have been some of the challenges and what has given you the greatest encouragement?**

Those who know me will agree that I have sometimes found coping with modern technology a challenge!

There have been more serious challenges to face as I have had the privilege of seeking to stand with some of our mission workers when they have gone through particular struggles. On the other hand there have been real encouragements, not least to see the Lord calling new mission workers from Scotland, and to have been involved in their journey from application to appointment and on into their ministries.

### **How has mission changed during your time in the role?**

The mission has grown over the years. New mission workers and colleagues have joined UFM. New countries and people groups are being reached as the work of the gospel continues to grow and bear fruit. Exciting new types of ministry have also developed. UFM has embraced outreach among students and mission to ethnic minorities; and the work of 100fold has opened up amazing new opportunities for

using modern technology to share the good news of God's grace to unreached people in the parts of the world where more traditional methods of outreach are not an option.

### **What are your plans for the future?**

I look forward to being more available to help my sons in running the family farm, and to spending more time with my young grandsons. I also hope to continue serving on the leadership team of my local church, as well as maintaining a keen interest in the ongoing work of UFM. I am grateful to the Lord for the happy years of ministry I have had with the mission, and for the fond memories which I will always cherish.

### **Michael Prest, UFM's Director, writes:**

Iain has brought so much to the work of UFM over the last 18 years. His hard work, pastoral concern for mission workers and commitment to the spread of the gospel among the nations have been a huge blessing and encouragement. Another wonderful aspect of Iain's service has been the warm hospitality extended by him and Fiona to so many mission workers, staff and supporters. As Iain prepares for 'retirement,' he'll be sorely missed by many. We rejoice in all that God has done through him and look forward to our partnership continuing in new ways in the years ahead.

# God provided a € 1.2m building, starting with a cheque in the post

*James and Julia McMaster serve in evangelism and church planting in County Mayo in the Republic of Ireland*

**Like most evangelical churches in the Irish Republic, Calvary Church, Westport, has spent its life as a fellowship of no fixed abode. Since Julia and I arrived in Mayo in 2002, we've met in a hotel, school, and leisure centre.**

We often found it to be a bit of a hassle, having to set everything up beforehand and then take it all out afterwards, but there seemed little choice. However, the question came up as to whether we should try to find our own building.

After much prayer and discussion, we decided that a church home would be a good idea and a real help in the work. A big part of our motivation was due to the fact that, for Irish people, a church is always associated with a building, and operating out of a leisure centre was a bit like a butcher operating out of a bakery.

At the time, this seemed rather far-fetched and nothing less than an impossibility – a bit like most things

that God calls us to do! However, we were praying about it, and one day our Pastor, Paudge Mulvihill, was driving to Dublin. He asked the Lord to confirm the matter by giving the church some money to work with.

On returning home, Paudge was delighted to open a letter and see that a cheque for €2000 was enclosed. However, on closer inspection, Paudge realised that the cheque was actually for €200,000! This amazing act of generosity was from a church which had sold their building in Dublin and graciously divided out the proceeds to other churches who were trying to purchase their own premises. This money gave the fellowship a basis from which to start looking at possible locations.

One such location was a warehouse on Distillery Road, Westport. However, at the time 'Celtic Tiger' prices were the order of the day, with the asking price being €1.2 million. As Paudge says, 'he smiled and walked away'. However, the Lord had other plans!



It is truly said that 'it is an ill wind that does not blow any good'. When the 'Celtic Tiger' finally ran out of steam and the economy collapsed, the asking price became €350,000. After some negotiations, the church managed to purchase the property in 2012 for €250,000, subject to planning permission; a full €950,000 less than the original. Truly the Lord is good!

Over the years we worked on the building when we had money, and when we didn't, we didn't. God's people in Northern Ireland were outstandingly generous, volunteering work for free or at a greatly reduced rate! And finally the time came to hold our 'official openings' – yes, plural.

In October 2019, we had what we called our 'Local Opening', an evangelistic service in disguise for the local people. The following Saturday we had our 'Northern Opening',



which certainly was a day to remember, a day in which we could celebrate the faithfulness of our great God. It was a delight to see so many of God's people from the North come share in the joy of the occasion.

However, despite the miracles provided to get us to this point, the much greater work will be to see our building filled with local Westport people worshipping the Lord. Please join with us in prayer for this!



# From Mongolia to the world

Mark and Gill serve in pastoral and mentoring work in East Asia

**“It was a simple beginning,” said Damba. “In the early 1990s the living God began to open our eyes to the truth of his gospel.”**

We’d known of Damba for a long time, but it’s only in recent years that we’ve got to know him better. A seasoned pastor in his mid-forties Damba is involved, like us, in supporting and encouraging the emerging Mongolian mission movement.

“Yes,” he recalled, “the truth of the gospel transformed our lives, removing the darkness and shame from our souls and giving us honour before God and man. Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross truly made us new people. And this was news we had to share. We literally gossiped it to our families and friends, neighbours and strangers.”

“After visiting every family, we left the city where we lived, walked into the hills to herders’ families and told them too. Then we took cars and buses to towns and villages further away, telling the wonders of God in every place we visited until we’d covered our whole province. Then we started travelling the country.”

We smiled, remembering the 1990s when we’d just arrived, and God was moving across Mongolia in a beautiful way. It had begun seemingly from nothing, although the reality was, God had seeded this ground decades earlier.

“After the demise of Russian communism, the words of the gospel gave us hope,” said Damba. “We didn’t know much, but what we knew we shared. It was real and people wanted to hear our stories.”





From the early 1990s and a decade more, the church grew rapidly and the Christians, with their nomadic hearts, began looking beyond the borders of their own land to ethnic Mongolians living in China and Central Asia. Young Mongolian mission workers entered towns and villages seeking to make friends. Friendships grew and the Mongolians shared the gospel, watching God build his church in previously unreached areas.

Damba told us, “To travel into China and Central Asia, meeting the ethnic Mongolians – many of whom are remnants from Chinggis Khan’s great empire – was amazing. Eager to have us in their homes, they begged us to tell them about their homeland. We gladly did, and in addition, we weaved into our stories the news of

our new pure and honourable Khan (king), who intervened in our world, saving us from shame and giving us his honour. Our new friends were receptive to this gospel truth, and we realised that God was calling us to take the gospel first to the Mongolian diaspora, and then beyond to the ends of the earth.”

**After visiting every family, we ... walked into the hills to herders’ families ... Then we took cars and buses to towns and villages further away**

No more than sixty members, the Mongolians mission movement is small and inexperienced. There is little organisational structure or cross-cultural training. But they passionately believe that God equips those he calls. So, taking God at his word, they go, and God is using them to draw people to himself. Please pray for Him to bless and strengthen them in this work.



# How we're serving church leaders to lead mission-minded churches

David Morrow, UFM's Area Director for Ireland, introduces us to the seminars that UFM have been running for church leaders

**Supporting and resourcing the local church in mission is what UFM is all about. So often mission agencies can be viewed by local church leaders as always wanting something from them: their people, their finances, their prayers, their meetings.**

With all that in mind, UFM has been putting on seminars for a number of years, with the aim of encouraging and supporting church leaders as they seek to serve in their local contexts. These are on relevant topics that have a missional significance for church leaders, both locally and globally. They are free events including a light lunch to enable fellowship and networking.

Our most recent seminar covered 'Leaving a Legacy', which involved thinking through our priorities in ministry and what will be the most significant over the long term. We focused on investing time in developing leaders and saw, through a look at Biblical principles and the life of Charles Simeon, the potential impact this sort of investment has.


Other topics explored, have included:

- When is taking risk right for the sake of the gospel?
- Developing a missions culture in the local church
- Breaking down barriers – seeking to remove unconscious fear and prejudices in reaching Muslims for Christ
- A time to plant – exploring church planting in Ireland'

In these sessions, UFM mission workers bring their cross-cultural experience, and we hear from people

**"Those get-togethers continue to be very profitable in my yearly cycle of life and ministry"**

**"I hesitated in replying as we move into our new premises that week ... but then when I thought about it, I can't afford to miss this morning you have planned."**

A photograph of two men in a casual setting. The man on the left, wearing a green polo shirt, is smiling broadly and has his hand near his face. The man on the right, wearing a light brown shirt, is also smiling and looking towards the first man. The background is a bright, out-of-focus indoor space.

**What are our priorities in ministry?  
What will be the most significant, long term?**

**Removing unconscious fear and prejudices in reaching Muslims**

**Developing a missions culture in your church**

in other agencies or local churches – a collaboration that is refreshing and rewarding for everyone.

The format of the day is designed to encourage plenty of interaction and those who come always express appreciation. One minister commented, 'I hesitated in replying as we move into our new premises that week ... but then when I thought about it, I can't afford to miss this morning you have planned.'

Others have said, 'Thank you once again for the opportunity for fellowship and enrichment for those in ministry in our area. Those get-togethers continue to be very

profitable in my yearly cycle of life and ministry.'

'I wanted to say thanks. ... What was most beneficial was just to take a few hours out to be at an event of this kind, consider afresh what we are doing in ministry and be encouraged that it is usually in the ordinary flow of ministry week to week that God works.'

This year we plan to host more events across the UK. If you are a leader in your church, we want to invite you. Look out for more details on church leaders' seminars coming up in London, Cardiff, Stoke on Trent, Newcastle and Leicester (all in May) and Northern Ireland. It would be great to see you come along and be blessed, challenged and encouraged as you serve where God has placed you.

**Find out more at [ufm.org.uk/events](http://ufm.org.uk/events)**

# Innovative technology takes Bible training to pastors without the web

*OneHundredFold* is a UFM ministry developing technology to support the church

**“They’ve blocked the seminary web site again,” Pastor Wong sighs. “How can I finish these courses when the government keeps shutting down access? Last time, it took months for a new website to be set up.”**

Mae, his wife, suppresses a flash of relief. When her husband takes Bible courses online, his activity can be monitored, and police might come knocking. But she knows that Pastor Wong needs this training in order to shepherd his congregation. Like many pastors in this Asian country, he struggles to lead his church because he has had almost no formal training. There is no Bible School in the country.

Pastor Edressa, who lives in Africa, needs seminary training equally as desperately. He lives in a village and cannot afford to attend Bible School in the city. He does not have internet access to take online courses. A visiting mission worker provided him with some books and DVDs, but

there is still so much he needs to learn about God’s Word, and how to use it to discern truth from error in the surrounding culture. In addition, his church elders would like him to be able to take tests and show grades, to demonstrate that he is equipped to lead the church.

**Mae, his wife, suppresses a flash of relief. When her husband takes Bible courses online, his activity can be monitored, and police might come knocking.**

These two pastors are an example of millions of people who are ‘beyond the web’. One of *OneHundredFold*’s challenges is to make distance learning accessible for them.

*OneHundredFold* is a ministry of UFM that focuses on using mobile



technology to address technical problems in ministry, like this one. We partner with organisations that provide years of seminary training. A year of training is squeezed onto a small memory chip that fits into a mobile phone. Pastors can work through essential Bible teaching on phones, without internet access.

The Mustard Seed Seminary app, now under development, adds the ability to take tests. Once a student has achieved a satisfactory score, he will be able to print a certificate. We hope to incorporate the ability for students and seminaries to have a small level of communication and feedback via text messaging.

Please pray for us to design the seminary app well, so that it is easy to use, and to overcome the technical challenges of Android app development. As we demonstrate the app to ministry partners and students, pray for insight into the needs of students, that the app may be shaped to meet these. Pray for God's provision of partnerships and quality Bible training materials. Pray for pastors shepherding the body of Christ around the world, that the Lord would protect and strengthen them for his work.

\*The characters in this story are fictitious, but their situations represent those of real people.



# Welcome!

**Iranian Christian Outreach** – We have appointed an individual serving in evangelism to Iranians in Swansea. Sent by Caersalem Evangelical Church, Swansea, he leads meetings for worship, sharing the gospel, bible teaching, and eating together.



**John and Anne Goodwin** with their children, Daniel and Elizabeth, are members at Beeston Free Church, Nottingham where John is a minister and Anne serves in Junior Church. Please pray for them as they prepare to go Italy in 2021, as church planters.



**Jeremy and Janet Boddington**, from Emmanuel Evangelical Church, Chippenham, spent time in Africa as missionary children. They join the South African-based ministry Mercy Air this year, with Jeremy bringing his experience in the Navy, to help him as Head of Operations.



**Lynne McLeavy** has come to the end of five years with London City Mission and returns to UFM to work with vulnerable women in Leicester, where she grew up. Previously, Lynne spent 22 years working with street children in Brazil. Lynne is sent by Trinity Road Chapel, London.



**Ruairidh MacLean, UFM Area Director for Scotland** – We're delighted to announce the appointment of Ruairidh (Rory). Originally from the Isle of Lewis, Ruairidh worked in architecture before training for ministry in the Free Church of Scotland. He served as a minister in a remote island, worked for Christian Witness to Israel in Scotland, and then as an itinerant minister. He has been involved in Bible translation and cross-cultural outreach, and is an elder at West Mains Church in East Kilbride.



FOCUS ON ...

# Sierra Leone

*Lamin and Jayne Dumbuya work in children's ministry in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown*

**Relatively small, with a population of only 7 million, Sierra Leone has a raw beauty, with picture-perfect beaches, forests and mountains. As a developing country however, problems with water, electricity, healthcare, education, roads, a poor economy, and rampant corruption means Sierra Leoneans face many challenges.**

Sierra Leone has huge mineral resources, and great potential for farming, forestry and fishing, but the majority of people live in poverty, and the country is highly aid-dependent. Internationally Sierra Leone is unfortunately most known for its 1991-2002 civil war ('blood diamond conflict'), and the 2014-2015 Ebola outbreak. The country continues to recover from the scars of these experiences, but the people are strong, resilient and friendly. It is made up of lots of tribes and languages, with Krio being the lingua franca.

## ▲ Challenges

Founded as a home for freed slaves in 1797, Sierra Leone was the first West African country to be evangelised. Islam is the dominant religion and Christians make up 21% of the population. While there is religious tolerance between the religious groups, believers from some Muslim backgrounds can face opposition from family

## Please pray ...

- that people would be disillusioned with religion, animism, and false teaching and would search for truth, so that there would be spiritual transformation across the country
- for church leaders, children's workers, evangelists, and church planters – for strength & encouragement for them, for their lives to always be a good witness of Jesus, and for spiritual fruit for their labours
- for the church to be strengthened, for false teaching to be exposed, God's Word faithfully taught, and for more workers to be raised up to reach the 'least reached' people groups.

# Sierra Leone is...

about the size of the Republic of Ireland



known for



'blood diamonds' mined and sold in the civil war to fund weapons

(in the bottom 5 countries in the world)\*

\*ceoworld.biz

46% under 15



1% Other

21% Christian

78% Muslim



7 million people

or society. Animism is widespread and is practiced alongside other religions. People's lives are governed by beliefs and practices promising to protect, give success, or harm one's enemy. The majority of Sierra Leoneans are initiated into powerful secret societies.

**About 46% of the population are still waiting for workers to be raised up to evangelise, make disciples, plant churches, and care for the community**

One church planter recently reported fleeing his village to avoid forced initiation. The Sierra Leone church is plagued with false teaching, especially 'health and wealth' teaching. The focus of many churches is money, with no heart for mission. The true Gospel is not frequently lived and preached. About 46% of the population (mostly in remote areas) are still waiting for workers to be raised up to go and evangelise, make disciples, plant churches, and care for the community.

## 💡 Opportunities

Praise God for the varied opportunities for evangelism, discipleship and practical ministries across Sierra Leone. There are many church-strengthening opportunities, through Bible teaching and training, pastoral care and practical support, with the aim of seeing a vibrant, Bible-believing, Bible-practicing, Spirit-filled Church, with believers mobilised for teaching, preaching, mission, and caring. There are many opportunities to empower and equip Sierra Leoneans to reach out to children, by providing children's ministry training and teaching resources for children's workers.

✂ Cut here, pop in your Bible, and pray for Sierra Leone



# What's it Like ... leaving grandchildren behind

*Colin and Kathy are parents of UFM mission workers serving in Bible teaching and church ministry in South East Asia*

**Saying goodbye at the airport doesn't get any easier. We've just been visiting our daughter and her family in South East Asia, where she and her husband are serving the Lord.**

This is our fifth consecutive visit and still it is hard to say goodbye. When our grandchildren were very young, they would cry and hang on to us and try to pull us back as we neared the barrier. That was very difficult for us as we tried to hold back the tears. Now they are still sad to see us go but understand that we have to leave and that we will see them again another time.

And of course it is just as hard when we are the ones seeing them off at the airport, after they have been visiting us. The worst thing then though

is coming back home to an empty house – the silence is deafening. It is so weird after they have gone. We wander around for days wondering what we used to do before they came. The house is so busy whilst they are here, full of the children's voices, laughter, crying, squabbling, question asked, relatives and old friends coming to visit. We are always on the go: reading stories, doing crafts, playing games, going for walks and bike rides, watching the 'shows' they put on. We absolutely love it all, and when suddenly they are gone, it's so quiet – too quiet. We find little notes from the older children under the pillows as we strip their beds, "We love you Grandpa", "Grandma we will miss you so much."; little gifts left for us – a pink shell, a heart shaped bead. All this brings ...



the tears back again, but gradually we get back to normal and into our old routine, looking forward each day to our chats on WhatsApp.

Being able to visit them is such a blessing, as we are able to see first hand their ministry in action, meet the people they are reaching out to, and get to know the friends they have made, some of whom have become our friends too.

It's great and very reassuring to see how happy they all are, and to see our grandchildren making firm friendships with the local children, even though, as yet, they don't speak each other's language. And when we come back home we are better equipped to raise awareness and

prayer support, having experienced their way of life and the work God has called them to do out there.

So although saying goodbye at the airport is sad, the sorrow is only fleeting. We know the grandchildren will soon be having fun with their friends again and we will be looking at our photos and remembering all the good times we've had together. We know they are in God's hands and that He will watch over them and guide them. What more can a parent ask for, than that their child be obedient to God and go wherever He calls them?



## Upcoming Events

Considering your role in mission, or supporting others? Join us for Bible teaching and a chance to chat, at our events.

### Called to Serve

7th March 2020, Emmanuel Church, Chippenham, Wiltshire

### Spring Conference in Northern Ireland

28th March 2020, Seagoe Hotel, Portadown

### Spring Conference in Scotland

24th - 26th April 2020, Atholl Centre, Pitlochry

### Summer Conference

27th - 31st July 2020, Hothorpe Hall, Market Harborough, Leicestershire  
Speaker: Paul Mallard

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# Serve God this summer

**Central Asia** 8-19 June  
Reaching the least-reached

**Romania** 12-21 June  
English Bible Club

**South Africa** 25 June-13 July  
Serving in schools and the wider community

**Moldova** 24 July-7 August  
Practical work and reaching out to people with disabilities

**Hungary** 1-9 August  
Teaching English and the Bible to children and teens

Talk to your church leader then email [personnel@ufm.org.uk](mailto:personnel@ufm.org.uk) or give us a call on 01793 610515 to find out more. 18 or over only.

**Apply by 31 March 2020**

[www.ufm.org.uk/go/summer-teams](http://www.ufm.org.uk/go/summer-teams)



# Summer Conference

## 27-31 July 2020

The annual conference for the UFM family of mission workers, churches and supporters



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