

# 4CORINTHS

WINTER 2022



ufm  
worldwide

## CAN WE BRING HOPE WHERE THE ROADS DON'T REACH?

Senegal

CHALLENGING TRUTHS  
FROM INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENT MINISTRY

Ireland

THE LORD'S LEADING  
THROUGH BURNOUT

Spain

# What is happening to UK mission sending?



*Michael Prest, Director, UFM Worldwide*

**I did some number crunching recently to try and get a handle on what's happening with the number of cross-cultural mission partners sent by UK churches.**

Having ploughed through five years of stats for nine different agencies, this is what I found. In that relatively short space of time, the number of UK-sent mission workers had gone down by 14%. For one of those agencies, numbers were down by over a third – in just five years. Only two of the nine reported an increase.<sup>1</sup>

Of course, there might be all kinds of caveats you'd want to make. God is raising up workers from all around the world for mission today. Yes, praise God! (See p12 & 13). And yes, the traditional western

agency model is in need of and is going through significant change. Quite right. And Covid has had an impact. Fine. But the general picture we observe does seem to be backed up by the numbers. UK churches are sending fewer cross-cultural mission workers around the world.

I wonder, what do we make of that? Well, some might say there are so many gospel needs in our own backyard these days, it is right that we focus more effort here. Still others might wince slightly at the idea of sending people around the world given the charges of cultural imperialism, from both within and outside of the church.

And yet in Matthew 9:37, Jesus famously says that the harvest is plentiful and the workers are few.

So how might we recover our confidence to send and see the trends reversed?

In these post-pandemic days, the crowds are back and being in the midst of a big group can elicit all kinds of responses in us, can't it?

I think about my first time living in Indonesia as a single guy in my early 20s. Feeling homesick one night, I went on my own to a huge McDonalds, looking for a taste of home. I was met by a vast sea of people, all queuing up for their food. And yet in that crowd I felt so alone.

As we look at crowds and experience being with groups of people, we're often thinking of our own reaction: elation or excitement, fear or frustration, loneliness or a sense of life.

<sup>1</sup> We're grateful that UFM was one of them.

Yet when Jesus encountered crowds, it's striking that his response, his feeling, was primarily about the people, and not himself. In chapters 5-9 of Matthew, Jesus is inundated with crowds. As he went through every town and village, people flocked to see him. His response was always the same. "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them."

Every time he encountered people, Jesus had this strong, deep, emotional response. His heart was moved because they were "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

He was so moved, of course, that he was moved to action, being that great Shepherd long promised, who would lay down his life for the sheep – who would die that people might be saved.

There's so much for us to learn about our own need to grow in compassion for the lost, by reflecting on the example of Christ. Yet

perhaps, first, we need to pause and reflect on the confidence we gain in mission because of the ultimate compassion of Christ.

That is, the success of God's mission in the world is not ultimately down to our depth of compassion – which blows hot and cold – but the beautiful, immovable compassion of the Lord Jesus for those not yet in his kingdom.

As we see few workers for a plentiful harvest, let's remember that the number of mission workers is not ultimately in our hands, but in those of the Lord of the harvest, whose love for the nations far outstrips ours.

With a confidence in him, let's give ourselves again to this prayer: "Father, would you send workers into your harvest field."

*Michael*



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# Challenging truths from a year of international student ministry

*Heledd Job* serves in international student ministry with Christian Unions Ireland

**“If I knew it was going to be this difficult, I would never have come.”**

**“I haven’t seen my family for three years”**

**“At home I have to be really careful who I talk to about church but here I can talk to anyone!”**

These are just some of the things that international students have said to me in the past year in Ireland. Others include: “Sunday is the one day I feel OK because of church” and also “It’s nice that people are friendly but what I really want is a friend.”

Over 25,000 international students come to study in Dublin every year, not to mention those who study in language schools. Though they are excited at the opportunity to learn and experience a new culture, there are very real challenges. Navigating a severe housing crisis, coping with culture shock, and trying to make friends in a new language, leaves many feeling lonely and isolated.

It’s a vast mission field, but God is at work. In my first year of ministry in Dublin three things have struck me:

## **The value of a welcoming gospel community**

Having lived as a foreigner myself, I’ve experienced the difference that a loving community can make. But in a country where the church is small and resources are few, it is costly to invest time and effort in serving students who might only be here a few months and then will move on to other parts of the world. It requires a mission mindset and a deep understanding of the gospel.

Wonderfully, I can name many Irish Christians who demonstrate this. They give, not for what they can get, but because of what they’ve been given. I’ve seen churches make a real effort to love and welcome internationals and many have had their time in Ireland transformed because of it.

## **God uses internationals**

There’s A from South Asia, who loves the freedom she has here to share the gospel. One Sunday she brought





nine students from her country to church! She takes every opportunity to learn so that she can go home better equipped to serve the church.

### **As an outsider herself, she would always notice a non-Christian walk into the room**

There's C, also from South Asia, who has really struggled with his mental health since COVID-19, and yet has kept trusting in Jesus and sharing his faith. As a result, two of his housemates from the Middle East have started to attend Bible studies regularly.

Then there's V from Sweden who was out with the Christian Union in her second week inviting people to their events. As an outsider herself, she would always notice a non-Christian walk into the room and would be the first to welcome them.

### **The harvest really is plentiful**

The highlight of this year was a two-week outreach over the summer. We hosted a café where

internationals were welcomed and given the opportunity to practice their English and to explore faith. Each evening students were invited to choose between staying in the café to chat or attending the Bible study next door. Every evening there was a mass exodus next door!

K from Ukraine came one night and straight away was eager to come to the Bible study having started reading the Bible himself a few months ago. He kept coming back with more questions until one evening it became clear that he understood the gospel. A team member asked him if he wanted to follow Jesus. He said yes, prayed and returned the next evening with a big smile on his face.

There are internationals in Dublin who are just waiting for someone to invite them in and open the Word with them. Pray for the Lord to send more workers into his harvest field and that through them many more would come to know and love the Lord Jesus.

# The Lord's leading through burnout

*Jonathan and Clare Skipper work in theological training and women's ministry in Spain*

**“Is our mission service coming to an end?” I asked after ten years of ministry in Spain. Following many joys and struggles serving university students in the Barcelona area, some bruising experiences had led me to a place of burnout.**

God gave me time to heal, but as the sabbatical drew to a close, we had many questions – questions about calling, gifting, sustainability, the emotional toil of ministry, and future direction.

“Would you be interested in becoming our librarian?” I never would have imagined being asked that - but the Lord was opening a door. The local Bible college (IBSTE) had an urgent need, with the imminent retirement of their librarian. With the gifts God has given me, it has been a perfect fit. Theological education inevitably involves administration, and it is a privilege to be able to dedicate time to that side of the ministry, in order to make theological resources available for our students and train them in study and research skills.

“We’ve been looking for a teacher for our theology of worship course for a long time. Would you be interested?” I never would have imagined that either - but, again, the Lord was opening a door. I had increasingly been involved in leading and coordinating worship in different contexts over recent years. Now I had four months to write an online course for the Evangelical School of Theology (EET), focusing on a biblical and practical theology of worship. That initial experience has led to further opportunities to teach on the theology of worship, both with the EET and IBSTE.

**Burnout is too often a reality in ministry, but so are healing, sanctification and grace**

Four years ago, the door for ministry in Spain could have closed. Looking back to that difficult time, my testimony is that I have never known God's presence more closely than in those darkest moments. It was his grace that brought me through to fresh



pastures on the other side. Without the support of our sending church, UFM and my family, it would not have been possible. The Lord has used it as a refining experience in my life.

Burnout is too often a reality in ministry, but so are healing, sanctification and grace. I continue to stumble along in weakness but have been allowed to glimpse something more of his power. When the time came to start at IBSTE, I could say, in the words of Psalm 56:13, "For you have delivered me from death and my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before God in the light of life."

The IBSTE community is now our primary ministry focus. Besides managing the library, I am teaching study methods and the theology of worship, while also studying for an MTh with Union School of Theology. Two years ago, we moved to the town where IBSTE is located and, from September 2022, Clare started teaching English at IBSTE, alongside English teaching and ministry to women.

Please pray for the ministry of the Spanish Bible Institute and



Theological Seminary (IBSTE), an interdenominational, theologically conservative seminary founded in 1974. There are currently around 30 full- and part-time students (we would love more!) studying a four-year accredited theological degree. A good number move on to become pastors or serve in other ministries. Pray with us for present and future students and for the Lord to raise up workers for the harvest field – the need in Spain is great. Pray that we would persevere in weakness, leaning on his grace, in order to bless those he has given us the privilege of serving.





# What happens when there is a crisis in your host country?



**What questions do you ask when you find yourself in the midst of a dangerous situation away from home? How do you balance your sense of God's calling with personal safety? What is the impact on your family?**

**This is the second of a two-part series in which we ask UFM mission partners to share their experiences of grappling with these very real challenges.**

## Living through the Myanmar coup

Covid was raging. The medical situation was unreliable. The national airport and those of surrounding countries were closed. This meant no medical evacuations available if there was any emergency. The healthcare system had always been struggling but was now under severe strain trying to deal with COVID-19. Then, to add further complications, the military arrested all the democratically elected leaders and took control of the country by force. The unstable situation was changing quickly and constantly.

In years gone by, foreigners had been targeted in similar situations, so our main thought was this: is this country we call home still a safe place for our

children to be? Many of our fellow mission workers chose to leave the country. Each time someone left we would prayerfully re-evaluate our position. We were not politically involved and we felt that, as long

as we made wise and thoughtful choices, we would be safe if we stayed.

We really appreciated communication from friends and family

who realised that our situation was not easy and who prayed. We were open and honest with our children about what was happening, in an age-appropriate way. However, we never went into too many details about some of the terrible atrocities that were committed. One of our children showed signs of anxiety and we tried our best to model being

**"sometimes explosions or shootings would happen close to our home"**





broken-hearted about the situation but reliant on God.

Sometimes explosions or shootings would happen close to our home and we learnt to pray hard as a family and trust God to keep us away from dangerous places. We continued to go about our ministry and, although

the situation was often terrifying, we weren't directly threatened. We didn't want to live in fear and were desperate to support and encourage our church family at this time of anguish.

*UFM mission workers in Myanmar*

## Evacuated from Ivory Coast

August 2004 marked a long awaited return to Ivory Coast for our family after having to leave in a coup d'état two years earlier. We moved to what was considered a safe area, the political capital, Yamoussoukro. For the first time, our children enjoyed attending a mission school as day pupils, where Rosalind was a teacher. I was beginning a new chapter of ministry with national colleagues in this strategic location.

These plans came crashing down when war broke out again, this time with the heat of the conflict on our doorstep. The days leading up to our evacuation by the British Embassy, in an RAF Hercules transport carrier, brought anguish and uncertainty, but ultimately a deep consciousness that God was leading us.

We wrestled with many questions: Should we risk ignoring the British Embassy advice to evacuate? Could we temporarily relocate to a neighbouring country? What about our national colleagues without the

choice to evacuate? There was a huge sense of forsaking them in their hour of need.

**"What about our national colleagues without the choice to evacuate?"**

Reluctantly, we came to the conclusion that, living under curfew, with a high anti-West sentiment abounding, we could no longer fulfil the

ministry we had begun, and could bring risk to our national colleagues who were determined to protect us.

Over the coming years, the Lord allowed us to minister into the country in ways we never envisaged: sending containers of literature, visits with building or well-digging teams, teaching trips and children's ministry.

God did not need us on the ground to accomplish his purposes, and we prayed and watched from a distance while believers, fleeing areas of conflict, planted churches in unreached areas. As John Piper put it, 'The pain of our shattered plans is for the purpose of scattered grace.'

*William and Rosalind Brown serve as Deputy Director and TCK Coordinator for UFM Worldwide*



# Can we bring hope where the roads don't reach?

UFM workers serving in evangelism, medical care and hospitality in Senegal

**Awa\* huddled at the side of the dirt track suckling her just-born daughter. The forest night held its own dangers, but this was as far as she had been able to walk before the infant had insisted on making her appearance.**

Her husband had helped her thus far and they had done their best with the delivery, but there were still some miles to walk before he could fetch the nurse. At least it was dry season. If the little one had been born during the heavy rains, they would have had a long slog through ankle-deep mud.

As morning dawned, a chuntering engine heralded her husband's return, seated behind the nurse on an old motorbike. Awa was thankful

that the nurse owned the vehicle and could come to her aid. Soon she and her baby were bundled onto the back of the motorbike and on their way to a medical facility in the city.

Awa and her family live in a rural village out in the cashew forest where the dirt roads are rough and too narrow for cars or trucks. If they want to use a taxi, they have a long walk before they reach the end of a suitable road. During rainy season, the deep muds make the track impassable even for bicycles and motorbikes. When Awa needs medical help, she must walk miles to the nearest clinic in the city.

Meanwhile, far away in England, a 14-year-old boy was making plans. After nearly two years of cancer

treatment, Josiah knew he would soon be going to heaven. Throughout his treatment, he had been aware that across the world, there were huge numbers of children who would never have the kind of healthcare he



had been given. Now he wanted to do something for them. He asked his parents to choose a charity – Christian, medical, for children, in Africa – and to donate his money to be used there.

people have difficulty accessing healthcare. The Lord has blessed that seed, growing the gift so that land has been purchased and work begun. And as we show the love of Jesus through practical service, we also share the good news about a relationship with Jesus.

Awa and families like hers are excited about the new clinic that is being built in their village. Soon they will have access to medical care without the long trek to the city. Health checks, maternity services and basic treatments will be available only a few steps away.

As Awa watches her daughter Ndeye running and playing with the other village children, she knows that in the near future, it will be less likely that another baby will be born at the side of the road.

Please pray with us that this new health ministry will be established well and will be a good witness. Pray that the Lord would open the hearts

## **Far away ... a 14-year-old boy was making plans. After nearly two years of cancer treatment, Josiah knew he would soon be going to heaven**

When Josiah's parents chose to support our medical ministry here in Senegal, they suggested purchasing a piece of equipment. But the Lord had put a dream in our hearts – we asked if we could use Josiah's gift as seed money to start a new medical outpost in a rural setting where

of the local people to receive the good news of Jesus. And pray that the Lord would raise up co-workers who share our passion for quality, compassionate health care given in Jesus' name.

\*Some names are changed for security reasons



# When mission sending is on the other foot

*P and E* are associate mission workers serving in mission mobilisation in Africa

**“We’ve been working undercover here in North Africa for several years and seen none of our Muslim friends come to Jesus. Our white skin makes us an easy target for the secret police! However, countless sub-Saharan Africans working here are not attracting suspicion as we are. What if sub-Saharan Africans could reach people in our town with the Good News?”**

These were our thoughts as we looked out over our desert town of 150,000 Muslims, with no known followers of Jesus. We realised that God was challenging us to return to East Africa, where we began our mission career, to mobilise the church there for mission.

Far away, in the tiny East African country of Burundi, a young man, M, felt God calling him to be a mission worker and received an invitation to our very first mission mobilising seminar in the capital. With no money to get there, he sold his precious mobile phone to buy a bus ticket.

As we presented the massive needs of the 10/40 Window and



the 900-plus unreached people groups in Africa, M heard God calling him to North Africa. Too shy to speak to us, he returned home and searched online to find out about how to become a mission worker. By an amazing sequence of communications, an email from M arrived in our email box, forwarded from someone in France!

Ten years on, M has been serving in North Africa for four years, where God is greatly using him to bring Muslims to Jesus; first fruits of our new calling. Others continue the work in our North African town, while we focus on mobilising the sub-Saharan church, encouraging the formation of indigenous sending agencies, and



giving cross-cultural mission training in several African nations.

Across sub-Saharan Africa, a passion to reach the unreached is growing. For now, it may be a small trickle. The obstacles are huge and the work is hard, but there are many encouragements. We are privileged to be working with many who are passionate to see churches of the

Global South seize the mission baton, which for the last two centuries has been largely in the hand of the western church.

A leader of a large pan-African evangelistic organisation once said to us, "Do not die till you have poured into the African church, everything that God has poured into you!"

The Western mission movement has insight, from both its successes and



failures, to pour into the growing mission movement. May the Lord of the harvest give us grace not to fail these labourers of the eleventh hour.

Give thanks for Africans who have responded to God's call to mission, and pray for their boldness, provision and perseverance. Pray for African church leaders to look beyond their own church needs to the unreached. Pray for all those involved in mobilising and training.





# A century in boxes: UFM's history uncovered

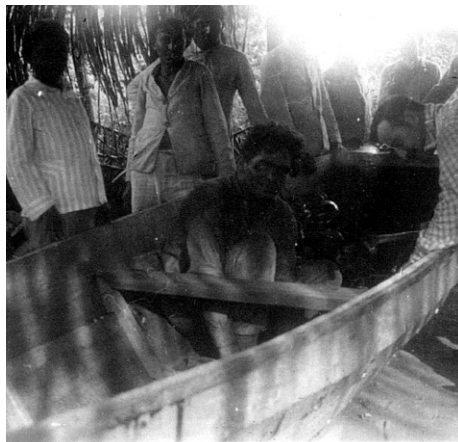
Over the past couple of years, a dedicated team has been diligently working to preserve a precious and unique record of mission movement across the world.

Comprising written and audio-visual material, the UFM archive represents nearly 100 years of history, of mission workers and the people they have served. We spoke to some of the volunteers, who have so kindly given up their time, to glean what they have learnt.

We talked to Sarah Charlton, a freelance archivist by profession and the UFM member who led the team. This voluntary project was quite a departure from her usual focus on medieval records!

*Why was there a need for an archiving project at UFM?*

The UFM office move near Swindon presented a great opportunity to sort out the archive. Paper records had been kept in the attic but the boxes were all sagging because they had got damp. Thankfully no mould was ever found on the records!



Carol uncovers photos from the archives;

'The Three Freds' martyred by the Kayapo people, Brazil, in the 1930's

UFM wanted to preserve the records in the best possible condition as a complete mission archive. To do this, we first needed to catalogue the entire collection of material.

### ***How did you go about it?***

An amazing team of volunteers, plus some UFM staff members, went through absolutely everything, box by box. The archive goes back to the formation of UFM in 1931 and there were well over 200 boxes. We started by making a list of the contents and then reallocated the material into categories, such as minutes and administration, relevant country, etc.

### ***What challenges did you face?***

The audio-visual material was difficult to work with as so much of the original formats are now obsolete. The mission workers files are extremely comprehensive, and

among the most interesting in the collection, but also contain sensitive personal information.

### ***What has stood out to you from working with all this material?***

A key figure in the history of the Mission was Herbert Jenkinson; he was there at the beginning in 1931 and served in the Congo. Known there as 'Kinso', he returned after the massacre in 1964 and made a point of contacting the Congolese people to understand their suffering during the Simba uprising. There are many letters to or from him and it's a great record of their stories.

There is much material in the archive about 'the Three Freds', martyred in Brazil. Another interesting story is of a lady mission worker who went to Brazil shortly after the Second World War, travelling in a boat which picked up



Archiving team: Sarah, Maureen, Pauline, Peter, Robert, Carol, Polly, Alison; baptism of Congolese believers with Herbert Jenkinson

survivors from Japan. The songbooks that she wrote in both Portuguese and English are in the archive.

What stands out is how much the mission workers loved the people they were working alongside and the reciprocation of that love and respect.

**We spoke to Carol, a volunteer, who travelled once a week from Cardiff to Swindon to help sort the archive.**

***What motivated you to get involved with the archiving project?***

It was a great opportunity to be involved in a worthwhile project. I had the time since I am retired, but I am also really interested in the history of mission and love reading mission biographies. I feel part of the wider UFM family, having been on summer camps to Moldova and as a supporter of UFM mission workers from my church.

***Isn't archiving material quite mundane?***

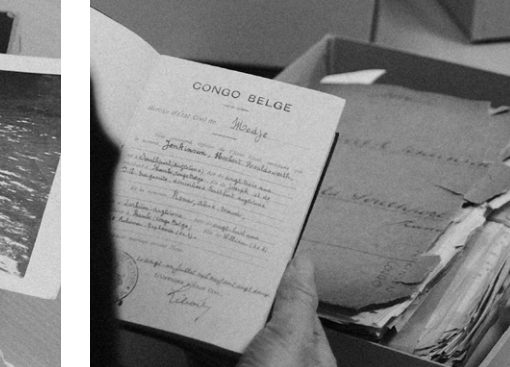
I like cataloguing and working with spreadsheets, so I do enjoy the mundane aspects of these tasks. But it's what I learned about individual

people's stories that I found most thrilling.

***Tell me about some of the stories that have inspired you***

I had never heard of the Three Freds and was blown away by their story, which I feel deserves wider recognition. One day, we found the Last Will and Testament of one of the Three Freds which I believe he wrote just before he travelled upriver in Brazil. We just sat and wept. Seeing not only their pioneering spirit, but their willingness to lay down their lives for Christ, really struck me.

Another day we came across a photograph of the first convert of the Kayapo people in the 1960's. Here was the fruit of the seed planted by those first martyrs in the 1930's. Just as we found this photograph, we heard that Michael Prest was about to visit Brazil for the handing over of the mission structure to the national church. It was amazing to think that the circle is complete; we saw the beginning and now we see the potential for yet more fruit as Brazilian Christians continue to share the gospel.



Herbert Jenkinson's file

I was also moved by stories about the massacre in the Congo in 1964. I was reading Margaret Hayes' autobiography, so to discover material about the African pastors who were sadly killed was really stirring.

### Was there anything surprising about the archive material?

The archive isn't all official documents, but personal photographs and letters telling stories about families and marriages. It gave a flavour of mission workers as individuals like you and me. This has caused me to pray more realistically, recognising that although mission workers are on the frontline for Christ, they too are sinners struggling with the same things that I do.

### What struck you about how mission has changed over time?

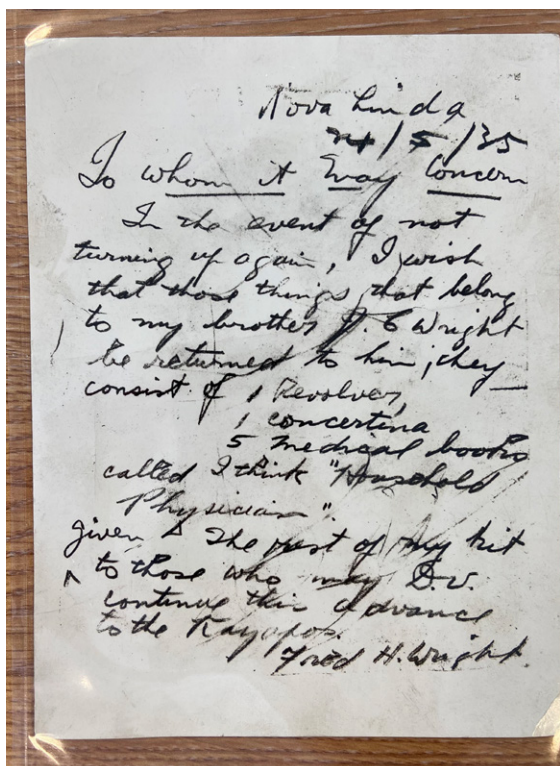
Individuals from the early days of UFM lived hard lives and trusted God for everything. We found a kit list from one of Three Freds: it was all about survival in the jungle. If you were planning a mission trip today, you would pack very different items!

### What would like to see happen to the archive?

I'd love to read a history of UFM. The

reason it needs to be told is that it is God's story. It's not that people or the Mission have done wonderful things, but that God has done and continues to do wonderful things.

We are very thankful for all the volunteers who helped with the UFM archive. Please join us in praying that this resource will be a blessing to many and a testimony to God's faithfulness, and that it will inspire future generations to continue the work of reaching the least reached and making disciples of all nations.



Last Will & Testament of Fred H. Wright



# How can UK churches welcome cross-cultural mission workers?

**UFM mission worker, Grace Njuguna, spent three years on the Cornhill Training Course, where she undertook a placement at All Saints Church, Crowborough. She is now serving long-term in youth and children's ministry in Kenya. Here she shares her experience of coming to the UK and offers thoughts for churches wanting to welcome cross-cultural mission workers.**

Living and serving in the UK was exciting but also very scary, at least at first. It meant having an open attitude to learning, overcoming my fear of trying the unknown, and not being afraid of making mistakes.

I enjoyed my time in the UK and felt welcomed into my new church family. Two things made me feel at home: firstly the wonderful reception right from when I arrived at the airport. I found my hosts eagerly waiting to receive me. They also provided the orientation I needed and were always willing to answer my endless questions as I tried to understand the culture.

Secondly, there was the excellent hospitality from my host church family. I cannot count the times I have been invited to Sunday roasts and dinner parties by members of the church family, which helped build relationships.

Despite having many good times in this new country, I also faced challenges. The first was getting used to the

**Another major challenge was the task-oriented culture. Everyone seemed to be rushing somewhere, which felt very unfriendly at first!**

fast pace of life in the UK. I worked in a big church. It took time for me to adapt to the busy rhythm of life.

Another major challenge was the task-oriented culture. Everyone seemed to be rushing somewhere, which felt very unfriendly at first! However, I realised that it was because I viewed people from the lenses of my African culture and, when I took a step back, I recognised that people were actually very hospitable.







**Provide pastoral support and care; be patient, especially in the first few weeks as they settle into a different culture**

There are a few simple, yet important, things that I would love to recommend to churches seeking to welcome cross-cultural mission workers. Provide pastoral support and care; be patient, especially in the first few weeks as they settle into a different culture; and seek to make them feel part and parcel of the church family.

As I think about the whole issue of cross-cultural mission, Revelation 7:9a comes

to mind, where people from all nations will be gathered before the Lord: "After this, I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb."

One of the things I appreciate from living in a new culture is embracing what is different. There is beauty in diversity. God is pleased to bring people from all nations and walks of life to himself.

# Welcome!



**Grace Njuguna** is originally from Kenya and has spent three years on the Cornhill Training Course serving at All Saints, Crowborough. She has now returned to Kenya as a long-term UFM mission partner, where she is working in children and youth ministry at Gracepoint Church Waiyaki Way, a church plant on the outskirts of Nairobi. Her sending church is Grace Church, Beckenham.



**Hope Garnish** has recently joined UFM (long-term) to work with the International Church of Turin in women's ministry. For the past three years, Hope has been involved in student ministry, also in Turin. Her sending church is Lansdowne Church, Bournemouth.



**George Sewell (IFES Interaction)**  
Through the IFES Interaction programme, in partnership with UFM, George is spending a year in Athens, Greece, seeking to reach students with the good news of Jesus. His sending churches are St Leonard's Exeter and Beeston Free Church, Nottingham.



**Rachel Hopkins** has joined UFM for a short-term placement. She will be doing a medical placement at Kompiam Mission Hospital in Papua New Guinea for nine months from September 2022. Her sending church is Christ Church, Fulwood.

**Yosry** has joined UFM as a short-term mission partner. Originally from Egypt, now based in London, Yosry works in evangelism amongst Arabic-speaking peoples, as well as preaching, Bible teaching and training churches in open air/street evangelism. He also seeks to help persecuted Christians. His sending church is Duke Street, Richmond.

## FOCUS ON ...

# Turkey



**One of the largest countries in Asia and 37th largest in the world, Turkey is situated between the Mediterranean to the south and the Black Sea to the north, and is one of the few countries in the world lying on two continents.**

A considerable proportion of Turkey's population (77%) lives in urban areas, with around one in six residing in Istanbul alone.

For nearly 2000 years, the land which is now called Turkey, has been witness to the sight and sound of Christian praise. The church in Turkey has passed through periods of peak and decline and, until the nineteenth century, very little attempt was made by Christians to reach Turkish Muslims with the good news.

The work of the gospel in Turkey has proceeded slowly but surely, with many foreign workers being arrested or deported in the 1960's and 1970's. From a handful of Muslim-background believers in the

**Please pray for ...**

- the Lord to raise up gifted local preachers and teachers that the churches may be fed and equipped
- the provinces in Turkey where there is as yet no church to soon become places where the Light shines
- young believers to become strong in the faith and willing to devote themselves to the cause of the gospel
- unity amongst churches in Turkey and for a willingness for believers to humbly and lovingly serve one another



# Turkey is...



99.2% Islam  
0.7% Christian  
0.1% Non-religious  
>0.1% Ethnic religions

\*joshuaproject.net



a culture that tends to be emotional & expressive

Tea-drinkers!  
Tea is a treat and is drunk all the time – it is considered very impolite to refuse a cuppa



notorious for car-honking including for special events



You will need a cezve to make Turkish coffee. Add sugar, water, place over a small flame and watch it heat up. Collect the froth/foam for your cup.



whole of Turkey in the early 1960's, the number had reached approximately 4,000 by 2010 and may be as high as 8,000 today.

The last 30 years have seen many positive developments in terms of Christian outreach in Turkey. We can now speak of a second generation of believers as the children born into Christian families are growing up and getting involved in Christian outreach themselves, including using the internet to

## 200 foreign Christian workers have been refused visa renewals in the past few years

disseminate high-quality Biblical material. Many churches now have local pastors and leaders, and a successful Bible training programme operates in ten cities, helping to strengthen local believers for roles in their churches and for outreach into the regions where as yet there is no church. Churches which are more established are actively doing church planting in the smaller towns nearest to them.

There continue to be many challenges. Many who profess faith in Christ, and are baptised, sadly fall away over time. While discipleship programmes are in place, there are often insufficient numbers of mature believers to walk alongside the newly converted ones. Visas for foreigners have become harder to obtain and over 200 foreign Christian workers have been refused visa renewals in the past few years. Churches are also rarely able to obtain the necessary paperwork to make their buildings official church buildings.

< Cut here, pop in your Bible, and pray for Turkey

## Upcoming Events

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

All details at [www.ufm.org.uk/events](http://www.ufm.org.uk/events)

### Scottish Prayer Day

Saturday 12th November, 10am-12.30pm, UFM Glasgow Office

### Irish Autumn Conferences

Tuesday 22nd November, 8pm at Ballymena Baptist Church

Wednesday 23rd November, 8pm at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Lisburn

Also live streamed on YouTube to local churches across Ireland

### Called to Serve

Saturday 25th March 2023  
10am at UFM Swindon Office

## Christmas Cards

Once again this year we shall benefit from the sale of Christmas cards and the other cards/gifts available from Gospel Cards, etc. 20% of their Christmas card sales and 5% of the sale of other items will be given to 25 Christian missions including UFM Worldwide. Produced to a very high standard, the calendars and books make excellent gifts for children and adults, while the cards are perfect for sending to Christians and non-Christian family and friends.

Full details available at [www.GospelCardsEtc.com](http://www.GospelCardsEtc.com)

Sign up to receive this magazine by e-mail or post!

[www.ufm.org.uk/signup](http://www.ufm.org.uk/signup)

To receive prayer letters from the mission workers in this magazine, please contact one of the UFM offices or email [info@ufm.org.uk](mailto:info@ufm.org.uk)



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# i:Witness

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in a cross-cultural context



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## UFM Worldwide exists to support churches in making disciples of all nations.

Since 1931 we've had the privilege of helping churches to identify, train, send and support workers for cross-cultural mission. We currently serve about 225 mission partners in 40 countries, sent by 100 gospel-hearted churches.

UFM workers are committed to making disciples of all nations, taking the gospel to the least reached, and supporting under-resourced churches around the world.

Please be in touch anytime. We'd love to help you and your church with your world mission involvement.



**ufm**  
worldwide

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