



# 4 COFFINERS

SPRING 2025

**“WHAT HAVE  
YOU GOT IN  
YOUR HAND?”**

**Training in West Africa**

**60 YEARS ON IN THE DRC  
Democratic Republic of Congo**

**HOW CAN WE RESPOND  
WHEN PLANS FAIL?  
Hungary**

# God at work

Michael Prest, Director, UFM Worldwide



**David Brainerd gave his life to take the gospel to Native Americans in the 18th Century. Biographies tell us he suffered from depression, loneliness and at times a lack of food. Dying from tuberculosis, aged just 29, he said “Now I am dying, I would not have spent my life otherwise for the whole world.”**

## God at work raising up new mission partners

What a joy to see God raising up a new generation of workers today with this same heart of sacrifice, willing to lay down their lives daily so the gospel might go to the ends of the earth.

Over the last 12 months, in our small corner of God’s global purposes, we’ve had the joy of partnering with 30 new long-term workers and their churches. These

new mission partners have joined UFM to serve in Spain, Cyprus, Zambia, Mexico, France, Central Asia, Iceland, South Sudan, Middle East, Uganda, South East Asia, the UK and 2 countries in South Asia. There are now over 300 long and short-term workers in the UFM family, for which we praise God.

We pray that many more might be sent to the least and the lost, knowing it’s only the Lord who can move people’s hearts and send people out, Matt 9:38.

## God at work to save and grow the seed

Just as it’s only the Lord who can raise up new workers, so of course it’s only the Lord who can save. Whilst much gospel work is slow and the fruit unseen, we can only praise God when we catch glimpses of his mighty power at work around the world. Over recent months, this has included:

- A Filipino baptised, having come to faith through a new ministry reaching Filipino factory workers in Ballymena, N. Ireland
- 1000 attending a Christmas event in a church plant in a challenging area of South East Asia
- A Russian speaking church recently planted in Eurasia seeing their first convert and baptism
- 600 attending a Christmas service for the community in Marseille
- A small but growing congregation in a church in Lille, planted last year
- 2 young ladies coming to faith in a church in Brazil, after 10-15 years of contact
- A new church starting in Carrigtwohill, Ireland in Spring 2025, the first evangelical church in that town. Ever.

## God at work to provide

As God continues to add people to the UFM family we look to the Lord to provide for all our needs. Would you please join us in praying for God's provision in three specific ways?

### 1. Provision of wisdom

The growth in the work is exciting and encouraging, but of course brings practical challenges. Will you join us in praying with faith for the staff team as they serve the mission family? Pray for wisdom to serve in the work of UFM, trusting God's promise to give us this wisdom, without finding fault, James 1:5-8.

### 2. Provision of finances

We thank God for his abundant provision over the years. We are praying about three factors that have impacted our running costs: a pattern of reducing legacy income, reduced giving to the general funds and increased employment costs (e.g. we will have £13,000 of additional costs each year due to the upcoming rise in employers' national insurance contributions).

### 3. Provision of people

We've been blessed to see the staff team grow in recent years to better reflect the responsibilities and opportunities before us. It's also been a great joy to see people volunteering, to support the work of the staff team as they support mission partners, churches and supporters. We have lots of opportunities for others to serve in this way and would love to be in touch if you'd like to hear more. From finance, to comms, operations to grant applications, there are plenty of possibilities!

I hope you enjoy this latest edition of 4 Corners and are encouraged to see something of God's work through his people. Thank you as ever for your steadfast prayers and generous giving. With our warm greetings in Christ.

*Michael*



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## From text to message

After 10 years as a pastor in Canada, *Aaron and Grace*, with five children, moved to Kenya (2018-2020). They now direct the Krapf Project from Northern Ireland.

**“The situation is critical.”  
one Kenyan pastor told me.  
I wrestled with the difficulties  
facing rural pastors during our  
two years in Kenya. Many have  
no theological training, no library  
or resources, and no prospect  
of improving their situation. To  
compound the problem, these  
pastors are coming out of an oral  
culture, so reading and study  
does not come easily.**

It was with these difficulties in mind, and a vision of solutions (although a little blurry), that I developed the Krapf Project in the spring of 2020. Today, we publish books and

a quarterly magazine called *The Pastor’s Study*. I also write Bible commentary and send it daily via WhatsApp to almost 500 pastors.

There are two immediate challenges we face in producing material for these pastors. Please pray for these – firstly, maintaining theologically weighty material while presenting it in a way that is simple, and secondly, relating well to the African reader.

Overcoming these challenges requires some investment of thought and strategic planning. We need to know the men and understand their context and their struggles. We also need to know the theological



pitfalls they face, such as the revival of African Traditional Religions (ATR), and the Prosperity Gospel so prominent in Africa. Finally, we need to source and engage African writers who know best their own context and who can speak with more authority than a Western outsider.

As we face the challenge of connecting with and relating to these pastors, I have discovered that the Krapf Academy workshops have been a very successful method. In December 2023, we held a workshop on preaching from the narrative passages of the Bible in Kitui, Kenya. I developed a simple method of study that investigates any given biblical story, digs deep into the language of the text and draws from the rest of the Scriptures to help understand the meaning in the broader biblical context.

### **... these men moved on their own initiative and financial investment**

Many of the pastors who attended that workshop benefited greatly, and the feedback across the board was encouraging. Pastor Jared Kidali, who I first met there, is a good example of how the Krapf Academy workshops speak directly into the lives of these men, mentoring them and providing them with resources suited to developing a culture of reading. After that first workshop, Jared testified “I never knew there

was a way we can dig into Scripture as deep as we’ve gone.”

We were encouraged by the feedback from Jared and the other pastors, but the greatest encouragement and evidence of fruit was when these men moved on their own initiative and financial investment to organise and host the workshops. Five months later, in April 2024, I travelled to Mombasa where Jared had organised a workshop for his area. I’ve just returned from two similar situations (in December 2024) in Molo and Bungoma, Western Kenya, and again, Jared was there.

In the days following, I received numerous texts of appreciation, but this WhatsApp message from Jared was a blessing.

“I wanted to extend my heartfelt thanks for allowing me to participate for the third time in your expository preaching conferences, this time in Bungoma. It has been an incredibly enriching experience, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity ... I look forward to continuing to learn and grow through these conferences. Thank you once again for everything.”

Praise God that he is using these simple solutions and pray with us that the pastors would continue to benefit and be used by the Lord, and that the project would expand.

*To learn more, go to:*  
[ufm.org.uk/aaron-and-grace-dunlop](http://ufm.org.uk/aaron-and-grace-dunlop)

Left, top: The Bungoma workshop



# How can we respond when plans fail?

*Joel and Eszti serve in Bible teaching and church planting in Hungary*

**In ministry, the one thing we *knew* we wanted was a home to share with others. Hospitality was our bridge-building strategy. Bible studies, prayer breakfasts, and even early church services were all envisioned as pieces of a puzzle, nestled neatly into a home. We were, so to speak, putting all of our ministerial eggs into one basket.**

As we arrived in Hungary, however, it became clear that a home was the one thing we weren't going to have. For a family of six, finding a place to live was going to be difficult.

Hungary implemented a law to protect families from being evicted, put in place during the restricted living circumstances of Covid. The motive was simple: families can't be thrown to the streets. But like all good things, it was easy to abuse. Now landlords think twice before renting to families. Additionally, a relatively large family requires a relatively large place to live. Suddenly finding a place to live seemed like it would be impossible.

Fortunately, we were able to stay with Eszti's grandmother. Unfortunately, adding a family of six to a home for an indefinite period of time is difficult for everyone

involved. Do you know any 88-year-old women who live alone? Are their houses prepared for children aged 6, 4, 3, and 1? Is *any* house prepared for that?

Despite the incredible blessing of having somewhere to stay, leads that ended nowhere and living in the in-between was putting pressure on our entire family. Add to that the fact that we were so close to the city we had prayed we would live in. We could almost taste it, a mere hour and ten minutes away!

**... we wrestled with many of the same attitudes and sinful thoughts as the Israelites did**

I imagine Israel felt this way, wandering in the wilderness. Every so often, they'd get to that same rock on their lap around Mount Sinai, they'd remember their impatience and impudence, and they'd see what might be a great crossing point to get to those great clusters of grapes. We are just so close!

While we wrestled with many of the same attitudes and sinful thoughts as the Israelites did, we also prayed that we would learn from their mistakes – that we would continue to trust God's timing, that we would not become a family of grumblers, and that we would recognize God's plan is far greater than anything we could expect.

This turned out to be true – the Lord provided more than just a home. he provided, at just the right time, a home that was bigger than we had anticipated, under budget, in a neighbourhood with children, and close to the centre of the city. We signed on November 28th – Thanksgiving Day in America.

**When we began to grow self-dependent, God crushed our idols.**

God's faithfulness continues to both surprise and break us. When we began to grow self-dependent, God crushed our idols. And when we came to the end of ourselves and cried out to our God, he answered in ways that were not only better than expected, but came at a time to remind us to rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and in all things give thanks.

**Far, left:** our new home and landlady, **left:** Grandma's house, **below:** our new home



# “Can I trust you?”

R&J are church planting in the Middle East; they refer to their host nation as ‘Magi-land’ to protect their identity and the identity of those they are serving.

**“Why are you here?” is the question I thought we would be asked most frequently when we first moved to ‘Magi-land’. On the surface, the country is not attractive: it’s extremely hot and polluted; there are weird smells everywhere you go; we experience multiple power outages a day; finding a green vegetable for people desiring the healthy option sometimes feels like a foolish quest; and the language is hard.**

As relationships with the Magi people have deepened, however, I’ve heard a question that matters far more to them. This question isn’t ever audibly spoken, but it resounds from the hearts of many of the men I’ve gotten to know. It’s the simple question of “Can I trust you?”

The Magi are immensely hospitable and warm, but when it comes to meaningful relationships, they have much fear, mistrust and judgement of others. Without trust there are no deep relationships. Even though many Magi people are good friends, when there is a concern for what one can get out of a relationship

rather than how one can give, the whole culture is affected. And Islam provides no help for true trust to be built. And why should it? Islam is not based on relationship but on the law. But whether their need for deep relationships is felt or not, almost no Magi believe they have a friend in Jesus.

## **Friendship is built in these ordinary moments.**

In Magi-land, trust has to be earned. When we love people like Jesus, people are willing to listen. I relish getting to go out several times a week with men and sit for hours eating sunflower seeds and drinking chai in the tea houses. Friendship is built in these ordinary moments. It’s when my friend Yuri\* shares how he has no close friends because he doesn’t trust anyone. He’s afraid to let anyone know him deeply for fear of them using information against him, like so many others have done to him in the past. Outwardly, he says that it’s better to be alone, but inwardly he craves to be loved and known.

Yuri’s fear of being vulnerable, yet deep desire to be known, is





something we can all relate to because we were all made for deep relationships. I've shared with Yuri how he needs to look no further than to Jesus, the one who calls us friends rather than servants (John 15:15), the one who lays down his life in love for his friends. Wow – what a friend!

It has been a privilege to be a friend *like* Jesus and so have the opportunity to share what a friend we have *in* Jesus; the truest friend

who covers our shame rather than shames us; a friend who can be trusted at all times.

Pray the Magi people would see that Jesus can always be trusted. Pray for more friends of Jesus to come to Magi-land to invite them to know the Friend of Sinners. Pray for us as we grow in speaking the Magi language and try to be a friend like Jesus.

\*Names have been changed for security.  
Photo for illustration only.



# 60 years on since the rebellion: what is God doing in the DRC?

*Ken McMillan* is the eldest son of Hector and Ione McMillan who served with UFM in what was then the Belgian Congo. His father was killed by Simba rebels and Ken was also injured. Ken resolved to return and continue the work his Dad started. He served as a doctor in Congo with his wife Ginny.

**The passing of Margaret Hayes has caused me to look back at my own time as a captive of the Simba communist invasion 60 years ago. It strikes me that the survivors – both Congolese Christians and UFM missionaries – went through insults, injuries, and a fiery trial that Peter mentions. And both have been “blessed because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon (them).” (1 Peter 4:14).**

For UFM, it meant the loss of 19 missionaries, including 6 children, killed by enraged Simba soldiers in late 1964. My father was one of the martyrs. But they, and the thousands of Congolese, did not die in vain. Nor did we survivors survive in vain. God’s glory is clearly resting on his people. Even through several rough post-Rebellion periods, there has been steady and sustainable growth in the CNCA community birthed by UFM back in 1931.

CNCA stands for Communauté Nation du Christ en Afrique. Its headquarters are in Kisangani, a city in the middle of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRCongo), rain forest.

During my working visits to CNCA over the last 30 years I have witnessed real recovery, especially at the 4 UFM martyr sites – Aketi, Kilometer 8, Banalia, and Bafwasende. I joined villagers in cleaning up the graves and memorial markers. I heard their stories and helped them imagine what each site could be. When faithful donors helped pay for cement and metal roofing for each of the 4 churches, local believers provided manual labour. At each site, God used Congolese leaders to realise those houses of worship for his glory.

At Aketi, believers had been making bricks since 1985 to build a martyr memorial building in honour of Bill Scholten, the first UFM missionary to die at the hands of the rebels in





1964. One of his pupils, Dauly, pursued medical studies with the help of UFM, and has served the CNCA community over the last 45 years as a God-honouring family man and popular pediatrician. Aketi now has a large church building as of March 2017!

The few believers in the village of Kilometer 8 (near Kisangani) are blessed to have Pastor Mutulua. He had migrated in the mid-1980s from another province and felt called to start a little congregation in memory of martyr Hector McMillan. A durable chapel, dedicated in 1995, now stands where my father fell.

Banalia is the locality of former CNCA head bishop Assani. He was very grateful when UFM missionary Maizie Smyth found enough money to help build a large memorial in memory of the 11 missionaries who were slaughtered at the ferry landing in 1964. It was dedicated to the glory of God in 2011.



Above (top down): The Aketi church, Pastor Mutulua, the chapel planted where my father fell



Elysee, CNCA women's ministries and Pastor Tambana, CNCA administrator and project director

The fourth martyr memorial church was dedicated in 2014 at the oldest UFM station of Boyulu. It now serves the population of nearby Bafwasende, where 6 UFM missionaries were executed in 1964. Elysee, daughter of Paul Magundi, is from this area, and is a prominent leader of the CNCA women's ministries. She now leads an annual thanksgiving gathering to remember all 19 UFM missionaries who were slain in 1964. She loves to challenge young and old Congolese to give their lives to God in life or in death.

Without Aluwa, the skillful mason and general contractor of CNCA, it would not have its current infrastructure. He personally traveled thousands of kilometers, supervising the building of some 30 schools, health centers and churches, including the 4 martyr memorial churches, all dedicated to the glory of God.

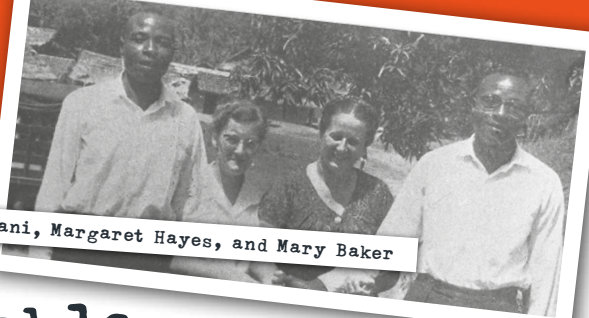
And without Pastor Tambana, now the current administrator and project director of CNCA, the community would be years behind in its general progress. Tambana

believes God's glory is seen in leaders as well as their projects. He would like friends of UFM to pray for the current president, Mehuma; he suffered a partial stroke that has left him handicapped; a CNCA General Assembly needs to happen sometime in 2025 to make leadership decisions.

Compared to its influence before the 1964 Rebellion, CNCA now has expanded to over 3000 congregations in 14 of DR Congo's 26 provinces – an estimated five to ten fold increase – led by 9 bishops and 5 senior pastors. Members now number 875,000!

Please pray for these bearers of the Lord's glory in a troubled land. Thanks to them and hundreds more, CNCA is maturing and multiplying. May the Lord of the Harvest continue to use his Spirit-filled Congolese, and believers' intercession, to grow the Church in DR Congo.

"To Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations." (Ephesians 3:21)



Bo, Asani, Margaret Hayes, and Mary Baker

## A Remarkable Work of God in Congo

Reprinted, by Herbert Jenkinson, UFM worker in Congo in 1931,  
returning in 1964

It may be good to tell of two students who went to the school at Bongondza and whose names would become known far and wide, beyond their own country. I refer to Assani and his twin brother Bo. Their conversion was a remarkable one. Both had had primary schooling at the Roman Catholic School at Banalia and had been taught never to listen to a Protestant teacher, nor touch any of their books.

'Providence' led them to the small town of Buta. Bo became an itinerant trader and Assani, whom the Roman Catholics had taught to drive an automobile, applied for the position of chauffeur to a fine Christian fellow named Andre Yengo. Andre had suffered much for his faith. He had been involved in what was known as the Prophet Movement in the lower Congo in 1921.

Along with several other of the leaders Andre had been exiled 1000 miles from home. Because of his industry and ability, he was eventually given a certain amount of liberty and was allowed to buy a truck with which he went out weekly to surrounding villages to buy food for the police and a small garrison of soldiers at Buta.

Assani got the job he applied for and had only been working for Andre a few days when his employer asked him if he was a Christian. Somewhat indignantly Assani said that he had been baptised in the Roman Catholic Church and taught in the schools and so he most certainly was. The next question was, "Have you ever read God's book, the New Testament?" To this Assani gave a negative reply and added, "The priest told me never to read or even touch such a book." Andre was not put off but said quietly, "I am surprised to hear you say that because I have proved for many years that it is a wonderful book - God's message for everyone. You are now a grown and intelligent man and are capable of judging such matters for yourself."

Assani was persuaded to do so, and the result was tremendous. The Spirit of God certainly came upon him, and he could not put the book down. Hardly would he allow himself time to eat or sleep. It got to the point where his fellow workmen declared that he had gone out of his mind, and they sent for his twin brother Bo who was on a forest trail carrying on his commerce. Hearing the startling news Bo hurried back to Buta. He found his brother a changed man, but certainly not mad, as he had been told. Assani told Bo that he had found the Pearl of great price and they both went to old Andre together and he explained the way of God more perfectly to them.

At once they were consumed with a great passion to tell their fellow men of their newfound Saviour and asked Andre for advice. He suggested that they go to the Bongondza Bible School to get more instruction as to how to use the Sword of the Spirit.

It so happened that just at that time Ma Kinso and I visited Andre, and he told us the wonderful story of the conversion of the Twins and asked if he might introduce them to us. They came with such enthusiasm that I admit I was somewhat taken aback and when they asked if they might come to the Bible School I hesitated for a moment. I wanted to be absolutely sure that their motives were correct, and it was not all a show of emotionalism. However, as Bongondza was some 70 miles away, and there was no public transport, I figured that if they had the desire and initiative to get there by themselves, it would be a reasonable test of their sincerity.

They came - and what students they were! They lapped up everything which was taught. When the Christmas vacation time came, they said they were going home to their natal village of Bopepe to take the gospel to their own people. Off they went, fully intending to return when the vacation was over. Instead of that they sent a note to say that there were over 200 new believers so what they should do [sic] - come back at once to Bible School or stay and feed this flock? I told them to stay where they were until I could get to visit them to see things for myself. Once again, I had my doubts for the simple reason that, although the gospel had been preached in the area, there had never been any response.

I went to Bopepe and was astounded by what I saw and experienced. They had built a wattle and daub meeting place, but it was already too small for the crowds that were coming, and was being extended, for the true church was being added to daily. It was a wonderful experience, and the fire continued to spread.



Herbert and Alice Jenkinson (Ma and Pa Kinso)

# Poetry from Seth Lewis

## Everything You Touch

Seth Lewis

Your hands  
 Flung stars  
 And stretched out space  
 Your fingertips  
 Shaped Earth and placed  
 A garden on  
 This small oasis  
 Bursting full of life

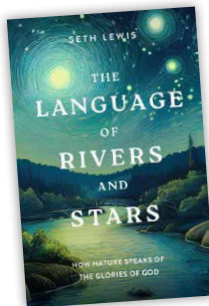
Your touch – that spun  
 The moon around  
 Reached down  
 And flowers blooming now  
 Show of the tender  
 Care in how  
 You cause all things to grow  
 Oh Lord, I want to know  
 Your living power  
 Overwhelming  
 Recreating  
 Blooming  
 Shaping  
 Lord, reach down  
 Your hand  
 To me  
 And

Grow your  
 Life in me



Seth and Jessica Lewis, sent by Daleville Baptist Church in Alabama, USA, are church planting in Carrigtwohill, County Cork, Ireland. They have three children: Daniel, David, and Rebekah.

Seth writes a weekly blog at [sethlewis.ie](http://sethlewis.ie) and is the author of *Dream Small* and the soon-to-be-published *The Language of Rivers and Stars*. Both books are available at [thegoodbook.co.uk](http://thegoodbook.co.uk).





# “What have you got in your hand?”

*Phil and Elspeth* previously served in Africa and are now based in Wales, travelling regularly, at the invitation of African churches, to train leaders and mission workers

**It's disheartening that mission sending to unreached peoples is a decreasing priority for many Western churches. However, it's exciting to see the increasing burden for the unreached nations falling on the Global South/Majority World Churches. It's such a privilege to stand alongside many African churches and leaders as this 'eleventh hour' momentum builds.**

We ended 2024 with a very full and, we trust, worthwhile autumn involved in training across Africa, and we would love to take this opportunity to thank all those who prayed for us. We spent a full month in Ethiopia, travelling and holding missions seminars with many leaders of the Full Gospel Church, and we met up with friends from Burundi, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Ivory Coast at the excellent Global Member Care conference in Nairobi. We spent 10 days in Ivory Coast with William and Rosalind Brown, teaching leaders of the UFM related UEESO churches, and we finished the year with two





Left: Sending group in Burundi, Above: Church leaders at the teaching sessions in Ivory Coast

emerging mission sending groups in Burundi.

Although the Evangelical church in sub-Saharan Africa is now the most numerous continental church on earth, with over 180 million members and huge potential to become a mind-blowing force for World Mission, there are still some huge obstacles to overcome.

When we began mission mobilisation in Africa, over fifteen years ago, we were advised by Mike Adegbile, the then leader of the Nigeria Evangelical Missions Association, to do all we could to help the African church to break free from their dependency on the West and to be continually asking the question, “What have you got in your hand?” This has been our mandate from God ever since.

Walking alongside our African brothers and sisters, we are striving together with them to come to a

place of humble trust and Christ honouring *interdependence*, using and maximising all our God-given differences, gifts, abilities and resources for the kingdom of God. The Western and African Church *can* truly work together as equal partners as we all learn to depend on God alone.

But to be brutally honest, we often feel the heat of the spiritual battle that rages to keep the unreached lost in hopelessness and darkness. We wonder how the Church of Burundi, for example, will ever send mission workers when the economy is collapsing, cars queue for days to get fuel, and many can't afford to eat once a day, let alone three times? How do we as Westerners help without recreating a spirit of dependency? Many questions, but God has answers!

Our doubts turned to hope and joy when we recently visited a mission training school in Kenya where four young Burundian men who had been at our training, were preparing for mission. They were so happy to tell us that they were trusting God for their fees and that God was supplying!

Hudson Taylor said, “There are three stages to every great work of God; first it is impossible, then it is difficult, then it is done.” It seems that we are somewhere between stages one and two, but stage three is coming. All praise to Jesus!

# Welcome!



**Jody and Hannah Esguerra** (with Isabel and Isaac) are serving the large Filipino community in Northern Ireland. They are sent by Ballymena Baptist Church.



**Kate Tolhurst** (with Mary and Noella) is serving in Uganda and is involved in the education of children with special needs. She is sent by Harvest Church, Alton.



**Henry and Esther Court** (with Ezra): Henry is soon to begin theological training at Crosslands before they move to France to be involved in church and student ministry. They are sent by Myton Church, Warwick.



**J** will be serving in the Middle East. He is sent by St Martin's Church Heaton Norris, Stockport.



**J&S** will be serving in SE Asia, and are sent by Highfields Church, Cardiff.



**Rachael Young** is serving short-term in Uganda. Her sending church is Christ Church Central, Leeds.

# What's it like ... when God's plans are bigger than your own?

*Roo & Esther* serve as teaching staff in a Christian international school in South Asia. They are sent by Cornerstone Church, Nottingham.

**As we moved to South Asia with our family last summer, we were sure of two things. First, our role in global missions would be small. Second, it would be in the background – we'd be supporting those who were 'on the frontline', sharing Christ with people in the region.**

Six months in, it's clear we were wrong on both counts! We moved, with our three children, to a small town up in the mountains to work in a boarding school – Roo as a science teacher, and Esther as HR Manager. The aim of the school is to support Christian workers all across South Asia by providing a safe and loving environment in which their children can receive an

education that follows the English curriculum.

We rejoice to hear of the work that some of the parents of those we teach and care for do, reaching people with the Good News of Christ, often in remote or closed locations in the region. But even as we walk to school each morning, we are so aware that our little town itself contains tens of thousands of people whose primary impression of Christianity has been formed by their perception of Western materialism, and who have no real knowledge of Jesus Christ.

In a region with a population of over 2 billion, the scale of the task is overwhelming. To describe our work as 'small' would be a massive understatement – it is minuscule!

In his kindness, however, the Lord has also helped us to see that



Left: The local area to the school, Above: Roo and Esther and the family visiting a local restaurant

however tiny our contribution may be, he is at work, and he delights to give us opportunities to speak for him, even in what we thought would be a supporting role.

**... we could never have anticipated the blessing that it has been for all of us**

Our school community is made up of a huge variety of cultural and religious backgrounds. As well as the children of Christian workers, we also welcome children from other faith backgrounds. It is a privilege and a joy to already have had so many occasions where we can open up the Word of God and show the children in our care the beauty of Jesus Christ.

Many of those from Christian families too, are unsure of their own beliefs, and we are able to come alongside them, love them well, and point them to Jesus.

On top of all that, the Christian staff at the school represent a wonderfully diverse group of brothers and sisters, and we could never have anticipated the blessing that it has been for all of us, as a family, to be encouraged and disciplined day-by-day by those around us.

As we reflect on our first six months here, it's not been quite what we expected – it has been so much more! Yes, our tiny community here is a drop in the ocean of the gospel need in this region, but our God is so much bigger! It's so exciting to even catch a glimpse of what the Lord of the Harvest is doing!



FOCUS ON ...

# Pakistan

*M&K* are itinerant workers, involved in theological training across South Asia.

**This was the first time that we could visit this amazing country that has been a near neighbour of ours for the past ten years. Though separated since 1947, the culture, food and languages are so similar. Indeed, many of our new friends kept on saying: "How come you are so at home here, when this is your first visit?"**

We were in Pakistan because we had been invited to help train pastors and church leaders in two very different areas: Kasur, a more rural area and Lahore, a city of over 12 million people.

We were very taken by the eagerness of the rural pastors to learn from God's Word and the joyousness of their worship. The believers were so thankful for our visit that we were invited to a different home each night for hospitality. To eat wonderful Punjabi food was not a hardship!

As part of this Kasur training we also visited a remote brick-making village. These people are some of the poorest in the area and the Kasur churches are reaching out to several local brick kiln villages. It was a joy to share the gospel with a very enthusiastic group of around 40 children and 30 adults. With so many children present, I

**Please pray for ...**

- Courage to reach out with the gospel.
- The many evangelists who work among the very poor Hindus as well as reaching out to Muslims.
- Safety, especially for those involved in discipling those from Muslim backgrounds.
- Spiritual growth among the many nominal, cultural Christians.



# Pakistan is ...



**244 million**<sup>1</sup>

97.6% Muslim

1.3% Hindu

1% Christian

(Other religions: less than 1%)

1. Source: Joshua Project 2. Source: Open Doors

**No. 5** most populous in the world



**3%** Evangelical growth rate<sup>1</sup>

Punjabi

Pashto

Urdu

Sindhi

Churches operate in over



**20** languages<sup>2</sup>



on the Open Doors World Watch List for severe persecution<sup>2</sup>

**Over 1,000** Christian and Hindu girls are kidnapped and/or forcibly converted annually<sup>2</sup>



Leading textile exporter, a top producer of **cotton** globally

Home to K2, world's second-highest mountain



abandoned the sermon that I had planned to preach and used a trusty Jungle Doctor gospel story. My translator had said that he didn't do children's ministry and was not going to find it comfortable. Afterwards he thanked me for showing how to simply preach the gospel to any age group.

Our second week was in the largest Christian enclave in Lahore, Youhanabad, with a population of 200,000. We did Bible ministry in several churches on the three Sundays, in both English and Urdu, and also spoke in the Bishop of Faisalabad's church in Godjra. He is the first evangelical bishop in this Church of Pakistan diocese for many years and is keen on Bible teaching for his people and priests.

We also had a 5-day conference for Lahore pastors and church workers, many of whom also travel into the Sindh province to preach the gospel to many poor Hindu villages. It was a great privilege to share God's Word and fellowship with our dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

**... their bravery and joy in the LORD is very evident and a great challenge to us**

Many of our dear friends spoke about the emotional weight and threat of the anti-blasphemy law that they live and labour under every day. Christians face 25% of all blasphemy accusations despite being under 2% of the population.<sup>1</sup> Every church has armed guards since the church bombings of 2015. However, their bravery and joy in the Lord is very evident and a great challenge to us.

< Cut out, pop in your Bible, and pray for Pakistan

## Upcoming Events

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

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

### Church Leaders' Webinar

Wednesday 19th March 2025

Online conference

### Called to Serve

Saturday 22nd March 2025

UFM Office, Swindon

### UFM Irish Spring Conference

Saturday 26th April 2025

Moira Presbyterian Church

### UFM Scottish Day Conference

Saturday 26th April 2025

Sandyford Henderson Memorial Church, Glasgow

### Summer Conference

28 Jul – 1 Aug 2025, High Leigh,

Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire

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Join us for

# Summer Conference

28 Jul - 1 Aug 2025

High Leigh, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire



**Bible ministry  
led by  
Gareth Burke**



[ufm.org.uk/summer-conference](https://ufm.org.uk/summer-conference)

## **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 over 300 mission partners in 57 countries, sent by around 150 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.

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Supporting churches in  
making disciples of all nations