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Registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC100188

THAILAND

Tom and Nui Hill

We would ask you to pray for Thailand. This Buddhist country of 80 million people is in total lockdown at the moment, backed up by a nightly curfew, and many people are feeling the pinch. A number of churches are trying to help the poor but many of the Christians too are experiencing hardship. Our own believers in the Muang Luang church too need your prayers. A number of them have lost their jobs and a number have had to leave Bangkok and return to their homes in the north. Brother Det, our full-time worker, and his wife and two little boys, who live next door to the meeting room, especially need your prayers. Since the believers are not meeting these days and the offering has fallen significantly, brother Det must be finding things difficult. Yet he continues online every day to encourage the believers and be faithful to the Lord. Pray too for Burmese brother Jaituun whose baptism has had to be postponed. Jaituun fled civil war in Burma when he was 15 and came to Thailand. In his twenties he allowed some people to baptize him in the hope of getting help, and this was the first time for him to see a Bible. Later in his thirties, in Bangkok, he met Brother Det, who explained to him the truth of the gospel. Jaituun received Christ and is now rejoicing in salvation. Do pray for him and the people of Thailand that in this time of darkness many might find the one true and living God. (01/05/2020)

PAKISTAN

Miss Mae Logan

I have kept in touch with those at Murree Christian School and there have been many challenges. At the beginning of the school year they struggled to get enough staff, but God answered prayer and some past pupils returned to assist. In February the decision was made that the school would close. However, the plan is to remain for another year, but only for the two classes that are partly through their exam courses. Please pray for the pupils and their parents that God would guide as they seek to find suitable schools. Remember also the national staff members who will be unemployed. Some of them have worked at the school for many years.

When the government closed schools because of the coronavirus, teaching began online. Staff were encouraged to do this from their home countries but very few have been able to get return flights. They would value prayer for this. Murree is sealed off by the police so no cases of the virus have been reported there.

Most other missionaries are involved in medical work and remain in the country. The impact of the virus in different areas will cause much concern so they need our prayers. (03/05/2020)

NORWAY

Nat and Jennifer Rodgers

In our limitation of reaching out to the masses in these days of coronavirus, God still gives opportunities to witness. Being advised by the authorities to shop for essential food only one day a week, meaning, of course, some food is not essential, Nat had a most interesting conversation with a gentleman called

Yngve. He remembered talking to Jennifer when she was in the cancer hospital in Skien. It was her confidence and assurance that she had regarding her faith that stuck with him. He told Nat he wished he had that sort of

faith! Knowing the trials that he has experienced during the last number of years, the shopping list was forgotten for some time, and keeping over two meters apart, God gave the opportunity to explain that Jennifer's faith is built primarily on evidence and is not a fairy story. Please pray for Yngve. We have agreed to meet again over a cuppa, and develop further our conversation.

Thank you for upholding us in prayer, especially for Jennifer. A recent consultation with the Haematologist informed us that all treatment will stop after the next two, also MRI scans! There will then be a period, we do not know for how long, when Jennifer will be called in for checks to assess her condition. We are eternally grateful for all the attention, professional care and expertise Jennifer has experienced until now.

(03/05/2020)

PANAMA

Clive and Hazel Walker

Here in Panama we are on total lockdown. Clive is able to leave the house on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30am-11:30am. Hazel can leave the house on Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 8:30am-10:30am to buy essential groceries or medicine. On Hazel's days she goes to the supermarket and buys supplies so we can make up care packages each week for most of the believers in the assembly and also a number of other families that have no income because of the lockdown. On Clive's days he goes to the houses to drop off the packages. While he is there he keeps the distance required but is able to encourage and pray with the families. The police are very strict about people being at home and impose fines of \$1,000 on those who disobey and the person's car taken from them. We have also been keeping in contact with the believers through WhatsApp or phone calls to make sure everyone is doing okay, and to encourage them from the Word.

Because of the lockdown we have been unable to distribute the last few boxes of calendars. The stores are not permitted to take them to give out to customers in case they have been contaminated with the virus. We are praying that we will be able to get into the schools with the calendars when the virus passes as the school year does not end until December.

Thank you for remembering us in prayer.

(06/05/2020)



SPAIN

Jesus and Helen Ortiz

Thankfully both Jesus and I and the family are well and taking precautions to avoid infection. Soria province is one of the worst affected in our region with Covid-19. Since the 14th of March we have been on lockdown and at this point the curve is going down but there are still many new infected cases each day and daily deaths. In one of the senior citizens' residential homes, where one of our sisters from the assembly works, they did tests last week and out of 138 residents 103 were found to be positive. This is a common feature now in the homes. Several members of our congregation have had the virus and have recovered but the father of one of our elders did not, and that was a sad time for all. Since the lockdown we have had no meetings but have virtual prayer meetings, three times a week using Zoom. We tune into other assemblies on Sunday mornings, and it has been a great blessing to do that.

I keep in close touch with the women and girls I disciple by Whatsapp. It has also been a tremendous blessing to see some friends, who are not believers, being touched by the Lord in these days of confinement and reacting to the Lord's prompting. Please pray for us as an assembly and our way forward as the future date for re-congregating looks a long way off. Our two elders need much wisdom from the Lord, these days, on making decisions for the church. (01/05/2020)

FRANCE

Alan and Valerie Kyle

After two months of lockdown, due to the coronavirus, an easing of conditions began in France on 11th May. This allows more movement, and more shops have opened. Nothing has changed as yet however for churches; a little easing is expected at the end of the month of May. As with believers worldwide, we had to adapt very quickly to meeting together using new technologies. We thank God that this has been a positive experience for Rambouillet assembly with an excellent participation at all our on-line activities. We have had the joy of friends living in other countries joining us for meetings and a number of non-Christians. These times together, on Sundays and midweek, have enabled those who live a distance from Rambouillet to participate more often, and couples with young children to both attend. We anticipate using these technologies in certain areas after a complete end of the restriction measures.

Work on the new premises for Rambouillet assembly has inevitably been delayed but the builders plan to begin within the next month. The conversion work is expected to last about three months. Almost immediately a group in the assembly will engage in less onerous but important tasks. This sort of help will be necessary throughout the summer months in order to reduce costs. We ask prayer for the completion of this very important project undertaken in difficult circumstances. We are confident however, that despite the difficulties, the Lord is working out His purposes for Rambouillet. (11/05/2020)

Monthly prayer meetings

Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic the monthly missionary prayer meetings have had to be cancelled until the government restrictions have been lifted.

VENEZUELA

Noel and Anne McKeown

* Government – Under the administrations of President Hugo Chavez, and the present one of President Nicolas Maduro, God's people have always been treated with respect; we have never been persecuted in any way. We thank God and the people in high places for this, and ask believers who may read this to do the same. Remembering 1st Timothy Ch.2 v.1-4, it is our privilege and duty to pray for them.

* Health – The health system has been in crisis for many years, indeed since we came to Venezuela in 1977; we speak of public hospitals, and not private clinics. The hospitals are in a deplorable state. Most are without water, ICU units are mostly contaminated; the World Health Organization estimates that 70% of the doctors have left the country, as they cannot live on hopelessly low wages. Young doctors, in training – especially post graduate training are missing many of their very capable professors.

* Fuel – Venezuela is recognized as having the highest fuel reserves in the world. Let it be petrol (gas or gasoline), diesel or natural gas there is sadly very little fuel to buy. Without fuel, one cannot go to buy the basics to live; or to get medical treatment.

* Poverty – Whether it be amongst Christians or the population at large, poverty reigns; people are so poor, and prices soaring every week. It is difficult to see this from day to day.

* God's Work – Venezuela, like many countries in the world, is under quarantine – in our case, since 13th March 2020. In spite of this and all their suffering the believers go on for God, praise God, and look to Him in their trials. The work of God goes on - there are no circumstances, no conditions that can limit God.

Pray for Venezuela.

(14/05/2020)

MALAWI

Stephen and Gail Harper

Conspiracy theories about the cause of the coronavirus have spread through Malawi on Social Media far faster than the virus itself. I was moved when I heard that these have given rise to a lot of xenophobia. I was so disturbed by one WhatsApp message, posted to a Malawian group I am on, that I was moved to do something to try to combat the fear that such baseless nonsense causes.

Over the past number of weeks, I have been live-streaming short Gospel messages into Malawi. As I could never keep up to all the messages in Chichewa, I am very thankful for the help of a few volunteers, most of whom have visited Malawi for MGO (Malawi Gospel Outreach), and for Brother Harold's excellent translating ability. After the live stream, the messages are compressed and released individually to a WhatsApp group I created for the purpose.

We ran a Facebook advertising campaign, the response to which was amazing. Our 'Uthenga Wabwino' (Good News) page was seen by over 100,000 and now has over 2,600 followers. A short Gospel message is released to the page daily and around 400 are also receiving it directly to their phone by WhatsApp. Although, at present, it is using an enormous amount of my time, I can see how the Lord has opened this door, and can envisage this becoming a major part of the ministry going forward.

(02/05/2020)