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## ZAMBIA

### Chris and Alison Brundage

Chitokoloki was as ready as it could be made for Covid-19. Patients who were not critical were discharged, elective surgeries were reduced and clinics were limited, along with the usual precautions like hand-washing. Visitors were not allowed which was a big change for community members who come to the hospital to visit their patients and socialize.

However, work has gone on steadily at the new bible conference centre and Covid-19 hasn't disrupted the project much. The conference centre is a repurposed leper colony; eighty small houses that were used to house lepers and other charity cases when leprosy was more common are being converted into a Bible conference centre. The houses are getting repaired to accommodate attendees and a new large dining hall and two washroom blocks were built. Chris was responsible for the plumbing. It was used for the first time this past week for a seminar for Christian camp counsellors.

We did take advantage of a three week gap in the flying schedule to have Flying Mission do some upgrades to the plane's avionics and also to do a top-end overhaul of the right side of the engine. It is a bit unnerving to see your engine spread all over the hangar and you wonder if it will ever go back together. But to the credit of the mechanics, it is back together and running very smoothly, with oil consumption reduced. We are thankful to the Lord for more than two thousand hours of safe flying out here. (10/07/2020)

## ITALY

### Stan and Tina Cochrane

Over the past few months we have not been able to do very much as all the halls have been closed and our morning service had to be cancelled. Nevertheless, in one way or another, we were in touch online, and a few of us broke bread from time to time. One sister came to us on Sunday morning and we had a little time together. Many, if not most, of our people do not live in Spinetta at all and travel was not always convenient.

Things now are beginning to pick up though and we should be able to open our hall here at Spinetta shortly but with limited attendance according to the law.

"Where two or three..." It is all in His hands. He knows our hearts. Has all this been allowed to shake us all out of our sleep? I am afraid that some who were on the fringe of things have drifted away. It will never be the same again but pray it will be better. Strange how a little thing like a virus that you cannot even see should change, to some extent, the history of the world. We are happy to say that no one in the Church was touched by this virus. Praise the Lord.

(16/07/2020)

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Paul and Dorothy Grieve

Covid-19 has, as in other countries, meant that we have been unable to have assembly meetings for several months. We had hoped to commence our assembly midweek prayer meeting and Bible Reading but the positive cases suddenly doubled in our municipality making that inadvisable. Daily meditations



are sent to assembly members using WhatsApp or SMS, serving to keep the saints aware of our prayers for them and keeping their minds on the Word. The Zoom platform has proved to be a blessing to us personally, as we have been

able to join virtual ministry meetings from different parts of the world. The assembly in Gaborone, Botswana, has organised a virtual conference from 18th to 20th July. I have the privilege of sharing in this ministry. Unfortunately, the electricity provider in South Africa has started to cut supply at various times each day, so there is a slight possibility that we might have a problem using Zoom! It is so good to know that all these things are in God's hands.

Gospel meetings have recommenced in some of the farms among the farm workers. Please pray for Benedict Mbatha who carries on this work.

Please pray for some believers here in South Africa who have contracted the virus. Some are seriously ill while others have recovered, for which we praise the Lord. Please continue to pray for us. We thank the Lord for His preserving care and continue to trust Him for the days ahead, in His will. (16/07/2020)

## JAPAN

### Noel and Eileen Hamilton

The Koshigaya Assembly started meeting together again six weeks ago and we are all so happy to be back around the Lord's Table again each week. During the ten weeks we were unable to meet, the three elders met together in the Hall each week to record a meeting for us on YouTube which reached, at times, well over 500 people. We took it in turns to preach and pray that God will bless His Word. We are meeting tonight to record Gospel messages for use on YouTube again and hope to do this once a month.

Since Dokkyo University classes are online we cannot have the English Bible Class on Campus, but the Lord has given opportunities while teaching to share testimony and His Word at times. One of my students has attended the meetings several times and some other unsaved are also attending. Please pray for Seki San's salvation. Today I spoke at the Matsubushi Ladies' meeting using Zoom. Eileen spoke to the same ladies last week. She is living with Hannah and Mark to help them.

Our new grandson, Ellis, born over a month ago with a Cleft Palate (Soft Palate) has been in NICU ever since but hopefully will get out next Monday. He will need special care until he has surgery when he is nine months old. Thank you to all who prayed. The Lord is good and has been our Shield and our Strength during this period. (16/07/2020)

## **UKRAINE**

### **Timothy and Rhoda Sloan**

Rhoda and I really appreciate your prayers for the assembly work in Lutsk, Ukraine. We live in challenging times for assembly work as we live in one of the seven regions known as "hotspots" for the virus. However we have been able to continue our Lord's Day meetings as the believers did not wish to stop meeting. On a Lord's Day everyone who enters the building has their temperature taken and hand sanitizers are placed throughout the building. No facemasks are worn and we sing as normal. The one loaf and one cup pass from believer to believer as normal. Lunch is provided for all before the Gospel meeting. Precautions are taken but we do not allow "fear" to interrupt our normal assembly practices. The Lord has preserved us all and we have much to be thankful for.

On May 27th a dear sister from the assembly passed away at 48 years of age. I had the privilege of speaking to a large number of unsaved - Inna is sorely missed. Our blind brother, Daniel, is in hospital due to metal pieces he has had inserted in his head causing him problems. Please pray for him.

Major interior renovation work continues at the orphanage and we are doing all we can to see this project up and running. The workmen work from 7am to 7pm and this schedule demands that we are there at 6.50am! The days are long but exciting. We continually look to the Lord knowing that He never fails. More information - [www.opendoorlutsk.com](http://www.opendoorlutsk.com). (16/07/2020)

## **ZAMBIA**

### **Philip and Deborah Cole**

The last four months have presented their challenges at Ipusukilo due to the Coronavirus restrictions. Schools were closed in March and some pupils were sent home with assignments to do. Deborah maintained this school work for all the children in both Primary and Secondary with a 'home school timetable' and continues to supplement their daily learning programme. The examination classes (Grade 12, 9 and 7), nine of our children, returned to school on 1st June. Our concern was that our children having been in isolation for 3 months would encounter peers who might not have been so careful. After visiting the schools and seeing that they had reduced class numbers and that safety measures were in place they have returned to learning. Their scheduled exams have now been moved to December. Churches were also closed but we were very thankful to be able to meet together as a family at Ipusukilo. This presented Philip with the opportunity to lead and for the children to take part in the family service over the weeks; some sharing a hymn and saying why it was special to them, the older boys to pray and give a devotion. Then the younger children went to Sunday School which uses the Bible Educational Services curriculum with Deborah. The older children, and mothers, completed a teaching series on Daniel. It has been encouraging for us that the older boys could get used to speaking and praying in front of a group. We have felt that these times have been a lovely time of praise, worship and learning for us all. Please pray as we start to move a bit more freely here that we will remain safe. (16/07/2020)

**The monthly prayer meetings are suspended at present.**

## **BRAZIL**

### **Lindsay and Beth Carswell**

Brazil is presently being hit hard by the Coronavirus with almost 70,000 fatalities to date. This number rises by about 1,200 per day. The northern and central regions have been badly affected, with the southern parts relatively free. However, this picture is changing as the south is commencing to feel the devastating effects of the infection. With just over 700 victims to the disease in Rio Grande do Sul, this number is expected to rise significantly in the next few weeks. Thankfully, so far as we know, none of the believers has been diagnosed with the virus.

All meetings have been suspended during the pandemic, but one or two of the assemblies have decided to resume some of the regular meetings, taking all necessary precautions. The assembly in São Leopoldo as yet continues with the suspension of meetings because this city is currently suffering badly from the pandemic.

The brethren in Porto Alegre have had Zoom meetings since the lockdown, so there have been opportunities for us to preach the gospel and give suitable ministry of the Word. Presently, our brethren, Harry Wilson and James Armstrong, are having a series of gospel meetings using this method. There are around 140 - 160 connections. Please pray for the gospel proclaimed nightly.

We are now distributing the 137th edition of the magazine for believers here, "Palavras de Edificação". Just over 1200 copies of this 24 page magazine are printed quarterly in our home, packed with a variety of teaching for the saints. Please pray for the edification of the saints and the strengthening of assembly testimony. (04/07/2020)

## **IRELAND**

### **Matthew and Shirley Shanks**

Stephanie contacted us soon after the start of the Covid-19 lockdown. Stephanie, her husband Richard and their two small children, moved to Gorey from South Africa in December, and called using the details on the assembly calendar they received shortly after moving in (an encouragement in itself!) Stephanie professes to have been saved as a child, and wants to "get back to the Bible", as she put it. Matthew and John have held a weekly Bible study with her via WhatsApp. Please pray for real assurance of faith for her, and salvation for her whole family.

Shirley attended the Neurologist again in April, and we were relieved that all the tests he had arranged for her had come back clear. He decided to start her on some medication for six months in the hope it would boost her energy levels. It is too early to really know whether this is having an effect, but she has had a slightly better few weeks for which we are thankful. She still has many limitations, however, and it is hard to have to miss out on so much. Of course, the Lord has been good, and we praise Him for His faithful care.

The uncertainties of the global pandemic continue, and we pray for guidance regarding the re-commencement of the assembly meetings in person. Meanwhile, we value prayer for real spiritual growth and Christ-likeness amongst us all, and for the strengthening of our unity, centred in love for Christ and one another. (17/07/2020)