

Subject Anderson's Update June 2020
From Miriam <miriam.anderson@ecmi.org>
To <home@shirleemckeown.plus.com>
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Furlough or Home Assignment?

It seems odd to hear of people being 'furloughed' as 'furlough' used to mean a time for missionaries to return home to visit supporters, report back, fundraise, and.... eat Cadburys 😊. Our Peruvian friends translated it 'holidays' and so we began to use 'Home Assignment' to give a better idea of what was involved. Now 'Home Assignment' is exactly what Covid19 has been for us!! It was refreshing in Psalm 40 to be reminded that our 'being' is more important to God than our 'doing' and as we have thought about what God is doing, especially since Charlie's ministry has changed so much, we've adopted Col 3:23 as our goal *'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart'*. Here are some of our 'doings'.

Member Care Conversations

We have been 'zooming' with missionaries to say 'hi and we are thinking of you' and it's been challenging to hear stories and a privilege to pray into situations like:

- Spain - Lockdown since the 14th March means some are apprehensive about coming out and the results of meeting together again, which has significant implications for 'church'.
- Poland - Upcoming elections and government actions make folk wonder what's happening in the political background and how might that affect

- ministry, while steep rises in food prices means money doesn't go as far.
- Brazil - many Covid deaths plus a country in turmoil has had economic effects on currency values and giving, so our Brazilian missionaries need much prayer in these days.

In the midst of it all people are encouraging their neighbours to turn to Christ by: blogging, playing Christian worship from their balconies, and leaving encouragements chalked on paving stones in common areas. **Let's thank God for the promise that His word will not return empty.**

Teamwork

Miriam is doing admin work for a team which Charlie chairs as they follow all ECM Ministries to co-ordinate and help where appropriate. Its been fascinating to see the prayer, thought, and discussion given to ministry ideas, new partnerships, changes of location, anticipation of needs and how they might be met. **Please pray for this monthly meeting as the leadership team need much wisdom, and sensitivity to God's leading for the responsibilities they hold.**

Family

Caroline and Mike have returned to Belfast as McDonalds is opening soon! **Do pray for continued protection for them and some work for Caroline please.** Daniel has finished his uni course and both he and Jane (GCSEs) are waiting for their results 😊.

Questions: Many of our colleagues have been creative in reaching out to others and we feel challenged to ask if we could do more either in church or our community. **Please pray about this with us.**

We are **so thankful to God** for where we live, and for our NHS, along with our Church family and others who encourage us. Thank you and we trust that you keep safe, keep encouraged and keep on keeping on in your own walk with God. Blessings, Miriam and Charlie.



Family Church during lockdown complete with coffee and snacks!



Our mailing address

11 Tullyneill Road, Sixmilecross, Omagh, BT799NU

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