

**No.96 November, 2109**

## **Charis Tully, Ferrybank**

Praise that the Sunday school in Cork for the joint service of baptist churches went well, the kids listened very well and It was encouraging to see so many churches and people together that morning.

# Praise that the Oct all age service went well despite the fact I was feeling sick - the next one is on the 17th Nov and will be based on the statement 'I am the Way the truth and the life'

# I am involved with the Christmas shoebox appeal again this year, please pray especially for Nathaniel the pastor of a church here in Waterford as he co-ordinates everything here, Please pray for strength and energy for him and for many people to come and get involved so we can get the job done quickly and easily.

# I have some time off over half term please pray for a nice break from work

## **Jonathan & Nicola McCracken, Claremorris**

### ***Praise***

- We give thanks for good times at the ECM Prayer Days as we met up to pray and share together.
- It was good to be up at Andy and Rachel's church in Glengormley for their commissioning service. Praise God that they are settling well into Claremorris. Rachel has got a part-time job.

### ***Prayer***

- We have an informal meal planned for some of our supporters and friends on Friday 8th November in Lisburn. Pray as we enjoy time together and have the opportunity to share about our work. We are grateful to so many who support us prayerfully and financially.
- We will have a Table Stand at the Winter Market in the Town Hall on 24th November. We will have a craft for kids and some Bibles and literature to give out.
- We will have another Amazing Journey to Bible Times Exhibition into a local boys Catholic school in Claremorris on 27th November. Pray for the boys as they see and interact with the Bible Exhibition and that they will follow up on the opportunity to request a New Testament for themselves to bring home.
- Pray for Jonathan as he continues to work on a short programme for local radio and that the manager of the station will be happy to give "Reflections" some air time. It would be great to be able to share some Bible teaching each week.
- Pray for Sarah as she attends some open days for colleges and universities to see for next year. Pray as she decides on courses and makes decisions.

## **Peter and Anna Crawford, Lisbon**

We are in N Ireland until the 16th of November. Please pray for a good response as we share with people about our move to Greece next spring and as we try to meet as many people as possible.

Please pray for the Barido family as they move from Tandragee to Lisbon, especially for housing, that God would open the door for them to rent a reasonably priced apartment ( almost impossible ) and for their adjustment to life in Portugal.

## Aislinn Duffy – Barcelona

I am sure many of you have seen the recent news of the troubles in Barcelona. These last few days have been pretty tense, with people taking to the streets to protest against the prison sentences given to the politicians involved in the Catalan referendum back in 2017. University classes were cancelled for a week and we had to suspend the various GBU and GBE activities planned. Things look to be calming down now, but please join me in praying for political and social peace for Catalonia, and especially in Barcelona. Please pray for the Christian students here, that they would seek to be peace makers and that God would use them to make a difference in this turbulent time.

Thank you for praying over the visit to Huesca back in October. We had our first meetup and there were five students plus myself, which exceeded our expectations! Praise God for this group of students and for the positive response when we presented GBU to the pastors in Huesca. Please pray for commitment from the students, that they would be able to meet up regularly and that they would seek to make an impact on the university with the gospel message. Praise God for how Manuela and another student from Huesca are able to attend the student conference at the end of October.

One of my main parts of work is attending the weekly GBU groups. This is where we study God's word and pray together. It is so encouraging to see the students grow in faith and confidence week on week. As we were studying Colossians earlier this month, one student realised that actually there isn't a sacred-secular divide but that Jesus is Lord over all, and that includes his studies! Seeing the students grasp biblical truth and live it out is one of the many joys of this ministry! Thank you for faithfully praying for the students and for me as I am in Spain.

## Sebastian and Gloria Forjan, Slovenia

Praise God for his faithfulness and his work in our lives, town and church that He is building. We see His work in people's lives as they are growing in His grace.

### **CHURCH**

Continue to pray for our church that people will keep their eyes on Jesus who is our life, Redeemer and Lord. Also continue to pray for our future leadership team that God will raise up His faithful workers.

On 10<sup>th</sup> of November we will have another opportunity to record a short video for national TV. Pray for the work of the Holy Spirit as we will share about God's solution for our selfish hearts based on 2 Corinthians 5:15.

### **FAMILY**

Pray for our family that Gloria and I will have wisdom from our Father how to raise three boys. They are 10, 9 and 6 years old. Pray for protection against the enemy and that we will have good rhythm.

Continue to pray for Gloria's health as she still recovers from burnout three years ago.

### **MINISTRY**

Join us in prayer for our friend that seeks Jesus. She is coming from a broken family and had a hard past, but she is very open for the Gospel. Pray that God will open her hear and that she will completely surrender to Him. Also pray for protection from the enemy.

Continue to pray for Gloria and I as we serve local church plant after 12 years that we will share Christ and direct people to Jesus in a daily conversations. Thank you.

## Carlos, Ana, Salomé, Daniel and Maria Freitas

We thank God for the opportunity for Carlos to go to the FEUER conference in Bucharest from the 31<sup>st</sup> of October till the 4<sup>th</sup> of November.

Please pray for:

- God's wisdom for the GBU (IFES) mission week, 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> for the Christian students and all that are taking part. Carlos will be involved in a panel that will engage atheists in Christian matters.
- Our children's school that the doors will be opened for us to share the Christmas story

## Stuart & Ellsye Rowell

*For whoever has despised the day of small things [beginnings] shall rejoice, and shall see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. Zech 4:7*

A few months ago, I returned to this verse in Zechariah that I had preached from at New Year in 1973 when I pastored a small village church in West Yorkshire. We were fresh out of Bible College and had only been there a few months; I preached twice on a Sunday and had to prepare a mid-week Bible Study as well as lead the youth group. Ellsye was teaching full time to take care of us and at the same time was heavily involved in the church while I also worked as a builder's labourer three days a week.

Despite the difficult situation we had been encouraged to see some growth and how God had used us in small ways to work in a few people's lives. At that time we were living in a caravan while we renovated a small house to live in, things were tough and on the outside quite discouraging but we knew we were living in the presence of God. (We only lived in Horbury for two years before we moved to Northern Ireland to begin another much larger project in Castlewellan Castle)

On my last trip I preached in both Serbia and Croatia from Zechariah 4 and reminded people that the key verse in this passage is v4 *This the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord.* I believe there are real up-to-date principles that apply here.

1# If the strength to do God's work comes from God then human weakness is not an obstacle to completion.

2# However feeble the Church appears to be there is far more going for her than the apparent forces against her.

3# There are serious obstacles that feel like mountains, so if the work is to be completed it is going to be all of Grace but human perseverance is still required.

Zechariah wrote in 539/8 BC as the Jews were returning to Judah after captivity in Babylon. Solomon's Temple had been destroyed and a new one was not going to be like the first. The people were glad to be back home but their resources were strictly limited. There was a lot to be discouraged about but they were called to live in the presence of God. Also there are many promises of future blessings in this prophecy and of greater things to come, far greater than building a temple to worship in - the promise of the King of Kings. Although the Jews in 539 BC could see the end game, God was giving them a promise to cling to that anything that was going to be achieved was going to be by his Spirit alone.

As I travel again next month this is the message I need to cling to; this is the message I need to communicate to church planters in South East Europe working with limited resources, many obstacles and discouragements. In fact one of the really hard things for my colleagues to handle when they travel to churches in the UK, Germany and the USA is to see well-resourced churches with large congregations and buildings they cannot imagine their own church ever being able to afford.

We all need Zechariah 4:7 tattooed on the front of our minds wherever we live : *“Not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord”*.

A significant part of this trip is really a vision building and learning experience for Caleb Klotnz and Doug Snook from Valley Bible Church (VBC) in Spokane, USA to explore possible new ministry partnerships in the future in South East Europe. Caleb is the Missions and Community pastor at Valley and Doug an elder that I have known since I first visited the church in Washington State in 2004. I am introducing them to church planting friends and ministry colleagues that I regularly visit.

In May this year VBC sent a great team to work with Szczepan and Kamila Cackowski in their summer outreach in Mikolow, Poland and this trip is see another part of Central Europe that is crying out for the Gospel of Grace. Both Caleb and his wife Linda were raised as MKs in Central America and served as missionaries in Trieste in Northern Italy close to the Slovenia border so that is where our trip together begins.

November

1<sup>st</sup> Fly from Dublin to Munich

Timotej Pintaric and Stefanie wedding in Ulm, Germany

3 Travel to Ljutomer to stay with Alen & Lila Kerčmar

4/9 Slovenia – an evolving schedule visiting people and places

10 Trieste, Italy to meet Caleb and Doug

11 Radovljica, Slovenia to meet with Sebastian & Gloria Forjan

12 Domzale to meet Goran & Metka Macura . Then onto Ljutomer

13 Ljutomer to meet with Alen and Lila. In the evening to Cakovec, Croatia

14 Cakovec meeting with Damir & Damira Pintaric

15<sup>am</sup> Meeting with Bostjan & Lidija Cifer from Maribor; <sup>pm</sup> Drive to Novi Travnik, Bosnia (6hr)

16 Novi Travnik meeting with Sasha & Keti Trajkovski, Radovan & Blazenka Trajkovski plus the Kajis family

17<sup>am</sup> Church in Novi Travnik; <sup>pm</sup> Bugojno where Radovan is beginning a church plant

18 Drive to Gorazde via Sarajevo to meet Mark & Kay Vanderwerf (4hr)

19 <sup>am</sup> Gorazde; <sup>pm</sup> Drive to Zajecar, Serbia (6hr)

20/22 Zajecar staying with Branko & Rada Tihoevic, meeting Novica & Tamara Srbulovic

22<sup>pm</sup> Drive to Northern Serbia (5 hr)

- 23 Drive to Trieste (6hr)
- 24 Caleb preaching in Trieste
- 25 Dec 2 Albania
- 3/4 Slovenia
- 5 Fly Graz to Dublin

Thankful and blessed to have been able to serve in the great harvest. I appreciate all of you who have helped to make this possible.

**PS** The good news is that now all twelve 30 minute videos of the sessions that Desi Maxwell recorded last year have been edited and the Slovene edition is already being used. You can also see the first eight of these in English by downloading The Yoke on your app store and clicking on the video symbol in the bottom right hand corner. The series is called **God With Us** and will soon be available to other counties where we have specific contacts to translate and launch in their language. It is primarily aimed at teaching biblical theology to the new generation of leaders and helping small groups understand more of God's Big Picture.