

**No.87 January 2019**

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

### ***Praise***

- We give thanks for 40 requests for New Testaments from the Boys school from The Amazing Journey Exhibition. Pray for these homes that receive them.
- We give thanks also for a good Christmas Kids Club. The family with 5 sisters came again and it is good to get to know this family.
- We thank God for Andy and Rachel Millar who have applied to Calvary Mission and have been accepted to work with us in Claremorris. We look forward to seeing the Lord's blessing in their lives over the coming year.
- Thank you for all your prayers and support over 2018. We have known much of God's love, protection and blessing.

### ***Prayer***

- Pray as we build up with the children's club and get to know some of the families that have come along.
- Pray as we plan for the months ahead and ministry with the church. Pray for the Bible study and interaction with church during the week. Pray as we reach out to people with the message of hope and good news.
- Pray for Sarah as she goes to a New Year camp with BCM in Athlone from 2nd to 5th January. Pray for these young people as they meet up together.

## **Charis Tully – Ferrybank**

Hi all I hope you had a lovely Christmas.

Mum got a call out of the blue the week before Christmas to go have the operation she was waiting for - to remove a growth from her thymus which is behind her breastbone - we thought it wouldn't happen till the new year. Mum had the operation and is recovering but is still in hospital as I write this, she was very unwell over Christmas itself and so it was a very different Christmas for us but the message is still the same Emmanuel - God with us! God has been with us and continues to do be with us - helping and sustaining.

Please pray for mums recovery and for me as I look after her for a few weeks when she gets out of hospital. Pray also for my house move which will happen by the end of feb. thanks charis

## **Louise and Vimal in Germany**

We had wonderful Christmas programmes for the refugees on 23rd Dec in Frankfurt at the Tamil church and 25th at the Evangelical Migrant Centre in Karlsruhe, where Tamils, a Singhalese family, a Bulgarian lady and a lady from Kenya were able to join us for Christmas day.

The Lord was gracious in enabling Vimal to undertake all the organising for such events. We all took part playing instruments and singing. It was a blessing.

Praise the Lord for His mercies, since Vimal was driving our van with seven other Tamil people home from Frankfurt after the programme on 23rd Dec. He dropped off three of them and began to drive the other ones to their destinations, when a car hit them in the rear. Vimal has some slight whiplash pain, so please pray for him. The van has been taken in for repair today, 28th Dec with minimal damage, praise God! However, we need an extra vehicle for 31st Dec as we need to host a New Years' eve and New Year's day programme in Frankfurt. Please pray that another vehicle can be given for this.

Pray too for a man called Ranjith in the Frankfurt Tamil church that lost his aunt on Christmas Day in Sri Lanka. She was a Hindu and he felt very upset about it, since she was like a mother to him. She suddenly died of a heart attack and the funeral was so quick, he did not have the chance to go to it. Due to this, he could not attend the Christmas programme with his family in Karlsruhe as planned. Vimal went to see the family in Frankfurt yesterday, 27th Dec to pray with them and to comfort them. Ranjith's brother in law, who accompanied Vimal on the journey, as he wanted to comfort his sister as well, was one of the passengers in the van accident, but he says he is alright after the accident. He is also a member and deacon of the Frankfurt church, although he lives in Karlsruhe. Pray for comfort and nearness of the Lord at this very sad time for them.

Finally, pray for us as a family at this very busy time that in the New Year, before the children go back to school, we will be able to spend quality time with each other too..

Thank you, wishing all our supporters a blessed 2019

## **Peter and Anna Crawford**

### Alta Crista

We are delighted that funding received from N Ireland and the US has enabled this church plant to be on a stronger footing. Pray for Rui and Joana Ribeiro (pastor) that they will be able to find accommodation nearer the church plant. Rentals and the general cost of living has gone up considerably in Lisbon.

The group which developed from the Alpha course we ran, is growing not just in numbers but in spiritual depth as we study the book of Acts. Peter shares some of the teaching with Rui and we are encouraged. Pray for protection for this group and for continued spiritual growth.

### Member care Network Portugal

This is a national network for Christian leaders in Portugal and we both are sharing a six session teaching on the topic of 'Resilience'. This retreat will take place from 7-9 January in a centre on the outskirts of Lisbon. Pray for clarity as we share both in Portuguese and English and for our sharing to be relevant to the group and in the context of working in Portugal.

### Personal

Pray that we may walk daily with the Lord and be open to his teaching. We are thankful for the continued support we receive for our ministry.

We have a trip to Athens, Greece planned for 22-29 January.

Pray that we might be an encouragement to a new candidate from Netherlands, Manuela now living in Athens, and that we will be able to engage with our partner churches there in a meaningful way.

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## **Office in Lisburn**

Thank you for praying for all the office needs and we praise God for many encouragements in the last month. Lourdes has been really encouraged to see good support coming in for the missionary family and some for the office too and we are very grateful to you as you partner with us in ministry.

We have been enjoying a well-deserved rest over the Christmas period as our staff have put in many hours over the last few weeks and were certainly ready for it. Praise God for the break and joy of fellowship at Christmas as we celebrate the Saviour's birth and all that it means.

On the 20th Dec we had our office Christmas lunch and it was wonderful to have Lindsay, Mark and Seth with us and of course Baby Rosa who was born on the 29th Nov at 7.28 pm. It was a joy to welcome Lindsay and the family and to see God's answer to all our prayers there in the flesh. Please continue to pray for energy and family life.

Blessings to all of you and best wishes for the coming new year from all in the ECM Ireland office.



### **Charlie and Miriam Anderson (ECM Leadership and Office/Member Care)**

Charlie

Thank you for your prayers during December the trip to Romania went smoothly and indeed was very encouraging to see the variety of work And the commitment of the ECM workers in Romania.

The New Year is naturally a time to reflect on the year gone by and to set some priorities for the incoming year pray that God would give wisdom and insight as I think about the different aspects of work.

Miriam

Thank you for praying for our trip to Germany it all went very well and was extremely interesting, and we were aware of God's presence.

Praise God as we look back to a year in which much has happened in the mission. We have had new staff and new missionaries and partners and many will testify to the faithfulness of God throughout 2018. As we look to 2019 as we look please join us and trusting that our Father God will provide all that is necessary for his work in Europe and that we will be given the strength to serve Him faithfully wherever we are.

## Aislinn Duffy - Spain

Praise God for the various Christmas evangelistic events that we had in Barcelona and in Zaragoza. Please pray that the conversations would continue and that God would reveal Himself to those who are seeking Him.

From the 14th to the 17th of January we have our annual staff worker retreat. This is a time of fellowship, prayer for the work in Spain and also training together. Please pray for Timothy Glasscock who is going to be leading the morning Bible expositions and also for those in the National Coordination who will be leading some of the training. Praise God for the team of staff workers in Spain (24 in total, 13 field staff). Please pray that He raise up more workers as the harvest is plenty but the workers are few.

On the whole January tends to be a quieter month as students have exams and so I'm going to be studying a week long intensive subject at Bible college from the 29th to the 1st. Praise God for the opportunity that I have to do this subject and how one of my flatmates, Mireia, has decided to do it with me. Please pray that we would go deeper with God and that He would continue to transform us more and more into His likeness.

## Stuart Rowell

Please pray for the funeral service in Krakow on Jan 3 at 12.00 CET - I am flying back to Poland on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> after spending three days there this week ( Dec. 20 -23) to be with the family.

Dear brothers, sisters, and friends,

On Monday the 17th of December our beloved Doug went to be with Jesus. For 35 years he was a faithful missionary, a loving husband and father. His body was destroyed by cancer, but it is now well with his soul. He died surrounded by the love, care, and many prayers in Philip and my presence. His last words to us on Monday afternoon before he died were "I am going home." This was great comfort to us because he knew where he was going; he had a godly life and thankfully he had a godly death.

Doug will be buried in Krakow in the family grave on January 3rd at 12 o'clock local time. Already we are missing him greatly, but we don't despair or grieve as those who don't have hope. One day we will all be together in the Father's house, which is something Doug looked forward to with anticipation throughout his Christian life.

With our love and appreciation for your support during this difficult time,  
Lila, Natalia & Michał, and Philip