



Dear Praying Friends,

Here we are in October, with 9 months being the longest space between our prayer letters in 44 years! Thank you for continuing to remember us through this very strange and difficult year for everyone, despite receiving only the few email updates we sent out. Thank you, too, to those who contacted us about our situation, assuring us of your continued prayers. We appreciate you all!

Like many others, our meetings in England & Scotland were cancelled when Covid 19 arrived. We have had to learn whole new methods of sanitizing surfaces, hand washing, wearing face coverings and even of listening to church, doing services by Zoom and of course learning all the technical jargon that goes along with it all. Probably for loved ones and believers, not being able to hug someone to comfort, encourage, congratulate or even to shake hands has left us all feeling bereft and separated.

Never has the slogan, 'Made in China' [usually meaning a lower price and quality], created so much impact and very little of it positive. The government of this country's treatment of believers is rapidly worsening and needs much prayer.

And yet, how blessed are we, who haven't been sick [or even those who recovered]. So many people worldwide have died and loads of our friends have had this virus, some even lost their lives, who were in one way or another connected to us. Others had to die without even a loved one nearby, leaving relatives even more devastated and unable to get closure for their grief, by the restrictions on funeral attendance. There has been the huge knock-on effects of emotional disturbances, inability to get treatment for other diseases like cancer, heart issues or diabetes, loss of jobs and financial difficulties, which continue to make life harder for many, and in some cases have resulted in suicide. And we are not through it all yet!

While we were not allowed to go back to Greece, we have been so thankful to be allowed to stay on in this little apartment. The lockdown prevented other missionaries on the field from returning, making this even possible. We were also loaned a car to drive around in for the period of deputation and of course, we are still driving it. Special thanks to Stephen & Rosie!

Yes, things are very different from what anyone anticipated, but as Paul shared in 2 Corinthians 4:1, 'Since we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.' The last part is repeated for emphasis in verse 16. Despite the problems, God is still Sovereign and Christ is on the Throne, so we remain certain that God is using this period to bring His People closer to Himself, giving us opportunities of sharing the Good news where and when we can and above all, to trust Him explicitly.

So what has been happening?

Before lockdown, we were speaking in Northern Ireland and it was wonderful to meet up and be with many of you during that time. We are always humbled at how many of God's people, continue to pray for and support us so faithfully.

In February, we were able to fly to our Brother-in-law, Jonathan Tink's, induction when he was installed into Fort William Baptist church, where David had the privilege to bring the message for that service. He along with Elizabeth and each member of the family have done an amazing job over these past months keeping the services going in the church, and helping out various members when they needed it. We know the believers there are glad to have them and everyone is looking forward to being able to be together again in church. As we were leaving to go, we were told that due to the heavy storms they were expecting on the day of our return, we may not get back. But we told them, it would be fine as we had to go. All the way down the road from Fort William to Glasgow, we were tossed across the road time and again by the very high winds and were informed that flights were being cancelled. We had a service to be at in Northern Ireland that evening, so were delighted on arrival at the airport, to find the Dublin and Belfast flights still on the board, when all others were cancelled. It was a bit of a rough ride home, but the pilot did a very good job and we arrived late but safely!!! Praise God!

At Christmas time, our Scottish and American based family gave us the gift of going to Austria for a week from March 5th to 13th, that we could be with Iain's family, who were arriving from the USA to show their latest addition, Skye, to her Austrian grandparents. We had a wonderful week together, also with Tanja's family there, and are now so grateful to have had that time, as otherwise Skye would have been half grown before we met her! We arrived back and managed to get groceries into our house, just before lockdown made it all much harder. Iain & Tanja, had a more difficult time getting back to the US, but they did manage to get back finally.

When the government regulations closed all the church buildings, many of the congregations invited us to meet with them through Face Time, You Tube or Zoom, [prior to this, David thought this was a sound made by a car, racing around a corner]!! This has helped immensely, not only in the UK and Eire, but across to Greece, Northern Macedonia and even to Poland. It has taken a lot of getting used to, and it will never be fellowship as in 'assembling yourselves together' [Hebrews 10:25], but these forms of electronic media have been really used of God to speak to people, encouraging and challenging, and even in the salvation of precious souls who possibly were not in the habit of attending church or hearing the Gospel! Personally, we have been enriched and strengthened and encouraged by many sermons on the internet that we don't usually have the privilege to listen to. During lockdown, we often heard 7-9 sermons on a Sunday. What a precious blessing for us, as we only have limited internet in Greece!!

And since then?

We were very thankful for great weather during lockdown and were able to go for a daily walk, getting to know much of this area that we didn't know before, except when busyness or rain stopped play!!



Coronavirus



Jonathan's Induction



Harry & Zelda

David visited the elderly, socially distanced, wearing masks and staying in the garden, just to make sure they were coping. It hasn't been an easy time, but we think of those who have had to be in prison for years, suffer persecution for their faith, have lived in refugee camps for many years or have serious illness to cope with every single day. This makes us realise that safe distancing, hand washing, wearing a mask and restricting our movements is not a lot to ask of us for a time, considering previous generations were on the front lines defending our nation.

After lockdown eased a bit, we were able to visit David's family, even sometimes outdoors and have enjoyed more time together than for many years. We were even able to go to our Nephew Harry & Zelda's wedding, which was a lovely experience we would have missed had we been back in Greece.

Because the UK is going ahead with Brexit rulings from December, making it more costly to send containers, we decided to fill a couple for the refugees still arriving or continuing to reside in camps in Greece. We are delighted to say, these containers are now both filled with thousands of pounds worth of brand new or very good second hand clothing, donated by people on both sides of the border. We are truly grateful and especially to all those who helped packing and organizing clothing. We also have a good supply of buggies and beds for children, toiletries, towels and bedding.

Due to the restrictions going on through Europe for even longer than anticipated, we had made arrangements to deliver one of the containers directly to the island of Lesbos, where many of the refugees arrive and there is great need with over filled camps etc. As these details were being processed, suddenly, there were overnight riots in Moria camp, Lesbos, and it was totally burnt down over the next couple of days. 13,000 people were suddenly out on the streets and in the fields. Naturally, it is the women and children who suffer most from lack of sanitation, hygiene, shelter, food and clothing. This was a nightmare for them and for those giving them help. Later when the army came in to clear the rubble to rebuild the camp, they were hindered greatly by those who demanded that no new camp be built but that the refugees be given safe passage directly to Europe, as no one really wants to stay in Greece. After the fires, the Greek army put a stop on all containers arriving to help the refugees, as they didn't want to reward their bad behaviour. However, finally things are quiet, a makeshift camp has been built, [while a new, more permanent one is being constructed], and now the army is willing to allow help for those who agree to go into it.

So our container will now go directly to the island and be greatly appreciated by the suffering majority there. The keys for the container have already arrived with our partners there.

The second container contains not only clothing for refugees in our area etc., but also stuff for the youth camp at our centre, and it would be best if we were there for its arrival.

How is that going to be possible?

Well, after much to and froing on the computer with the Greek government, we have asked permission to be in Greece for the arrival and distribution of this container in the capacity of short term NGOs. This has been allowed for the period from October 14th to November 4th.

We need a miracle for the container to arrive by then, but even if it doesn't, we can make preparations for it to be set there and also maybe do a few other tasks like preparing the 2021 calendars for distribution. We may not be allowed to move around much in the first two weeks, but there is plenty to do on the property to keep us occupied. We need very definite prayer that this will work out, that the flights actually go [as we have been cancelled twice before], that we will take all safety precautions and that we will make the best use of our time, benefitting as many people as possible. Greek young folks are prepared to be helping in all these projects. All you have to do is pray, believe and watch it happening! Remember Romans 11:6 'without faith it is impossible to please God.'

...on the homefront.

We continue to have many opportunities to witness in the most amazing of situations. From castle to garden, River bank to forest walk, supermarkets to garages, God has opened doors for us to share.

One of the most special, was when David had been calling at another home to deliver a requested Bible, was on his homeward journey, when suddenly he felt he should turn around and visit an old friend. Inside a few minutes, Alan brought the conversation around to his need of salvation, and within a further 45 mins, this dear man came to Jesus and accepted the gift of Eternal Life. Everything has changed as 2 Corinthians 5:17 has become a reality for him. He has already told many of his friends and shared that he never knew it could be so simple.

Please pray for many others: Tommy, Pauline, Ray, Sofia, David, Rowan etc., who have shown deep interest in spiritual things and accepted Christian literature.

Little Filipos, whom you have prayed for in the past, has had an extended time in hospital due to deterioration in his condition, but as an answer to prayer, is now home on new medication, and hasn't had any fits to date.

We have financially supported the work of our team in the refugee camps on the mainland, as they continue to minister to hundreds of needy people. We have been thankful for provision to be able to keep this work going even in our absence.

We have just begun supporting another Christian university student from Macedonia as she begins 4 years of study in Slovenia. Again the Lord will continue to provide for that and we know she will be a real testimony to those around her. Please pray she finds a good fellowship to join from the addresses we have given to her.

People have asked us how we can keep going without meetings or church offerings, but our answer is as always, 'God's Promise in Philippians 4:19 is as sure now, as it was the day it was written'. Many of you, wonderful friends, have gone above



Helpers filling the containers



Full container or refugee relief



David preaching at drive-in service



Bethany and Peter engaged

and beyond the second mile with gifts for the work, even those who, in many cases, haven't seen us this year. We have also discovered the beauty of the word 'legacy' for the first time, and it is with sincere gratitude that it happened to us. The relatives of those who are involved know who they are, and we want to express our deep humility and appreciation. We know we can thank them personally when we all meet together again one day.

Some drive-in services have been working through the summer, with many coming along who don't normally attend church, and David has had the joy of preaching at a few of those. As well as that, some of the bigger churches have opened with full restrictions observed, and David has also been very happy to preach with human faces before him again.

Recently, we celebrated 44 years of marriage and our sons arranged a 2 day stay at a castle estate close to us. It was very private, a beautiful place, with many country walks, beautiful views, swimming and hot tub facilities and the most wonderful cuisine experiences. We did thoroughly enjoy that special time together, we were treated like royalty and even had opportunities to witness to other guests, albeit at a safe distance! We really are very blessed!

Keeping up with family:

Bethany Tink [eldest daughter of Elizabeth and Jonathan] got engaged to Peter Craig. We are delighted they have found each other and want to serve the Lord together.

- Bryan has been kept very busy as their institution reopened recently, but they are still catering for some students with online education. Calila broke her arm in a fall recently, but is healing up well.
- Iain continues his work in TRBC and recently his two eldest girls transitioned into home schooling for their further education.
- Jon Marc and Ashley recently received the gift of a new foster baby, bringing their family to 7 including Evangeline and Christian. They are very busy with work, counseling and leading bible studies as well.
- Allyn has coordinated programs all across the Globe from home for these past months, as international travel has been suspended. He has worked hard with all the necessary logistical changes to work and ministry in recent months.

This is the year we normally would spend Christmas and New Year with our family in the US, but unless the laws for travel change, it won't be possible for us in 2020. We trust it won't be **too** long before the virus is under control and we can be together again, as the grandchildren grow so much in 2 years, and some we have not even met face to face

Charles and Bertha McCluskey have worked tirelessly on our Mizpah Board for the past 35 years. In fact, they are the last of the founder members of our committee. Recently, Charles indicated his desire to phase out of Mizpah and hand the work over to others. We are eternally grateful to Charles and Bertha, not only for all their input and help, but also for the many years of friendship we share and wish them all God's Richest Blessing in the years ahead! N.B. The Prayer Letters will now be sent out by Alan & Linda Taggart [see address below], who have been helping this year and have agreed to take over this task.

Stephen Brownlee has recently agreed to come on board as a Mizpah Trustee [more in the next letter]

Please continue to pray and let us know if you have prayer requests, that we can support each other.

Serving Jesus together with you,

David & Wilma

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All gifts are tax-deductible.*

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