mizpahoutreach

Prayer Letter #154 May/June 2023



Dear Prayer Partners, Family & Friends,

As we put pen to paper, following a very challenging period in our 47 years together, we want to thank you all for your love, support & prayers for the work, for us as a family and especially Bryan. After 16 months, in what seemed like a never ending tunnel of bad news and more bad news, we finally have a little light at the end of that tunnel!! Bryan was referred to a new consultant at a very specialized hospital, who after reviewing his case, said he would operate on the tumors and felt he could control any further ones which arise with careful observation and treatment when needed. According to him, we are not looking at dying from cancer, but learning to live with cancer. This was our first bit of good news and then a few days later to be told that despite having had no chemo since end of November, two of Bryans tumors, which were very much active in February have died on their own, and only one large tumor is still alive, which will be removed carefully and the area scraped and filled with chemo in early June. Then it's a matter of waiting and watching for 3 months to know what is required next, chemo or cancer maintenance drugs. We have all been praying for a miracle and God is giving Bryan just that!!! Please continue to pray as the battle is not yet over, but thank you again for your faithfulness in this area.

We are forever grateful for a place to live when at home and also for the people we get to meet while there. One such veteran missionary couple are the Matthews, and it was exciting as David shared some of Mary McBride's book '*They Opened the Book*', to hear Dorothy say that her grandad had been saved through a Dr Matthews, who was mentioned in the book. Our meetings schedule, combined with all the other things needing done before returning to Greece, was very busy, sometimes leaving us pretty tired. But the sense of God's presence, so often tangible in the services, meant it was refreshing, encouraged us very much, so was worth the effort. We appreciate each one, whom we got to see during that time. It was a pleasure to visit the coffee morning, where renowned author Margaret Skea was introducing her recent biography on Ruth Hadley's missionary work. *Angola in my Heart* is a book well worth the read for those with any kind of missionary interest. On another occasion, while Malcolm was bringing David to pick up his van, they met and had an amazing time of witnessing to two ladies at the next table. Please pray for B. & J.

David was able to take one full day and go round visiting many of the people we got to know at the mission in Monaghan last year. Accompanied by Howard, they visited all day and enjoyed so much being among those who have become such an important part of our lives. One dear Christian lady, after reading it for herself in The Bible, asked for Baptism and it was a real joy to be able to help her to follow the Lord's Will in this way. Please pray for others contacted, especially [S] who is not yet saved!!

Thank you for all who stepped up to the mark, providing transport, taxi service, repair work, gathering goods for the camp and the refugees. We don't take any of it for granted and know the Lord will bless you for it!!



Bryan + Children

In March, Bryan and his 7 kids made a quick trip to Ireland and Scotland, as most of his kids had never met the extended family. He was able to share his story in church and also to our family. We spent the time making lifetime memories, visiting sites in Scotland and Ireland. Our families pulled out all the stops to make it a very special time for us all and we are very grateful for each one!!!

Bryan had himself chosen his Air B&B and we were delighted to find that the people who own Grove Fort Farm, are friends and prayer partners of ours for years. The children had the joy of playing in the snow, which was there the first couple of days, watching sheep give birth and especially cuddling the new little lambs. One particularly poignant moment was when one sheep adopted another lamb, reminding them of their own situation.

Alongside those we saw at meetings, we visited many friends who requested prayer for healing, needed to talk over problems or were facing other issues. We gladly obliged and were delighted to watch God move in many amazing ways, as He spoke and worked into various situations. Also David was able to visit some sick friends in hospital, praying for them too. One lady commented to David when they met, 'Your prayers have been answered, I am now back attending church!' it is always a great joy to see how often God puts opportunities in our path, especially when and where we least expect it.



Open-Air Meeting



Norma



Jenny



"L" in England



Team One



Team Two

Then finally, fully overloaded, we headed for Scotland enroute to Greece. We had a number of really good meetings, and over Easter were very happy to work alongside Jonathan and Elizabeth to do a mini-mission or series of special meetings. The whole family were involved and we had some wonderful times, during a very busy program of events, including a senior meeting, film evening, open airs, and the baptism of 4 young adults, who were responsible for bringing others to the services, including one who was his first time ever in a church service.

One lady, under deep conviction, stood outside the door weeping, unable to go inside. After a sleepless night, she returned to tell her story and ask for prayer. There was a very definite sense of God moving in hearts each night, as the Gospel was preached and the praise & testimony service on Sunday evening was very uplifting.

In the open air David met a Belgian contact named Norma, who noticed his borrowed Bible and exclaimed that it was identical to the one she had bought in 1968. She has been searching for so long, and we were delighted to put her in contact with OM Belgium in Zaventum. That would really have pleased George Verwer, who went home to be with the Lord on Friday April 14th.

George, was an outstanding visionary and so much of the legacy he left is an amazing testimony to the Lord who put the vision for OM, the ships and so much more in Georges heart and then carried it all out to what it is today. One time, when David was seriously ill, George heard about it while he was in a conference in Germany, He stopped the meeting right then to pray for David's health and it was around that time, that David finally began to improve. Despite a very busy schedule, George was a great communicator keeping in touch with many of us who left OM and joined other works. He wrote to us faithfully and contacted our boys when he was in the USA. More importantly, he faithfully prayed for us all. He will be greatly missed, but he is with His Savior and receiving his reward. Please keep Drena and the family in your prayers.

Just this week, we lost another faithful missionary from our days in OM, as Susie Huveneer [Scot married to a Dutchman], went home to Glory! Her family were caring for her in the last days!

In a campsite, we were able to witness to 5 Germans, who were interested to listen. One of them, Jenny, read a lot of our literature and became a friend. She was left with a lot to think about in life and needs prayer. She said that she hopes to visit us with her collie dog in September.

While travelling through England, we needed 3 tyres after one punctured, and later it was noticed that two others were worn. We stopped on the motorway and were able to run off the road into the village of Tebay, beside a house, where we met Tom, Chrissie, His mum Gill and family, shining for Jesus, but starved of Christian fellowship! It was a real blessing to encourage each other. A day or two later, a traffic detour cost us hours of time, but led us to [L] an abused lady, who eventually landed in prison. She took a Gospel booklet, hugged David, and she said she would not have listened to anyone else tell her the Gospel story!!!

The remainder of our journey went really well, considering the load we were carrying, the traffic on the roads and the borders we had to cross. We had several storm warnings for the return ferries, but the sea crossings were a dream, which David was especially glad for, and we thank you again for praying!

Arriving back, it was 16 hours work days to get the car on the road again, unload what we needed from van and trailer, mend all that needed repaired, paint cabins, and with the help of Pannes, Tracy and Alex, get enough beds built for the men to arrive to on May 3rd. It wasn't the most luxurious accommodation they ever had, but it was the best we could do!!

We made a list of tasks needing done and the team worked incredibly hard, achieving most of these goals, despite the added problem of a burst pipe along the way, requiring some serious work to get it fixed. The sense of unity was inspiring, as they worked on toilets & showers, plastering, painting, landscaping, carpentry, electrics and kitchen installation. *'How good and how pleasant it is, for the brethren to dwell together in unity!*' Psalm 133:1

Some left at the end of one week as others arrived, taking over with the same enthusiasm. There were times of prayer and fellowship every morning and we had fellowship meetings on both Sunday evenings, when we got to hear the stories of how some of these men found Jesus. During the first week we were visited by a man who needed prayer for various fears in his life. When asked why he came to us, he said he had talked to an unsaved friend of ours, who has done some work here on the camp. When he heard the man's problem, he immediately told him to go and see David, as he had met workers in that camp who were bad men until God changed them and made the completely different, so he knew Prayer works. It is exciting to see how God uses the witness of these men to reach out to the villagers here, as well as to the shopkeepers and people they deal with in Katerini! We can't thank them enough for their sacrifices to see this camp up and running.

Please continue to pray for services in Northern Macedonia and Greece, that people will have their eyes open to the truth of the Gospel. Pray for approval by the Greek authorities when the camp is finally finished. We are hoping for an opening date sometime in 2024!!

Allyn will be travelling to various demanding destinations over these next weeks, coordinating work with the Ukrainian refugees in multiple countries, as well as the Earthquake survivors in Turkey/Syria, where they had a team on the ground inside 24 hours of it happening. We really appreciate your prayers for him during the month of June.

God bless you, till we meet again! Thank you for your faithfulness.

Leaving you in His Dependable Hands,

David & Wilma

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