



Paraclete Christian Network International

Charity No: 1019767

Prayer/Update Sheet January 2022

Welcome to 2022! What a year 2021 turned out to be. I guess most of us hoped things would improve greatly through the year but as we approached the end of 2021 and have entered into a new year, we sadly still find ourselves faced with many challenges as the Covid-19 pandemic continues to trouble us in different ways. But, as we here in PCNI look back on 2021, we have seen God move in remarkable ways despite all this and as ever show His faithfulness and provision in wonderful ways.

The English Church, Benidorm, Spain

We as a Trust are very grateful to Alan Robertson and his wife Christine who faithfully continued ministering in Benidorm in 2021 long after Alan planned to stop, in the midst of all the Covid-19 challenges affecting public church meetings, restrictions of movement and travel and limited numbers in Benidorm. As some of you will know, during the pandemic God raised up for us a couple from Northern Ireland - Trevor and Maggie Ramsey - who felt a definite call to the ministry in Spain. There were several zoom meetings with the Trustees and a trip to Northern Ireland to meet Trevor and Maggie "in the flesh" and meet folk from Newtownbreda Baptist Church in Belfast, who we are now partnering with in this ministry. As a result of all this, it was wonderful to see Trevor and Maggie make the move out to Spain in August 2021 and immediately find accommodation and begin settling into the church. Some of us as Trustees were able to attend a wonderful induction service in September along with members of the Mission Board of Newtownbreda. It was lovely to see the locals there including representatives of the Scandinavian church who took part in the service. A stirring address was given by Revd Stephen Curry from Ballymena followed by a celebration tea provided by the local bar next to the church. This was also a time to thank Alan and Christine Robertson for their faithful ministry and bless them as they returned to the UK.

As I write, Trevor and Maggie have been in Benidorm almost 5 months and have settled in well to the ministry and seen the church consolidate and grow again numerically with the relaxing of some of the Covid-19 restraints. They have spent time getting to know the locals, building good relationships with the Scandinavians, reaching out to tourists on the colourful Benidorm "strip" at night and generally acclimatising to life in Benidorm. During these months, we have been able to maintain good contact with them via email/phone/WhatsApp, as have the folk in Newtownbreda. Thus we are kept in touch with what is happening week by week and join in items for prayer, of which there are many. This far, they are enjoying the ministry and seeing God's hand at work in people's lives and sensing the power of God's spirit in the services and other gatherings. We are so grateful to God for His provision of Trevor and Maggie and the way the partnership with Newtownbreda is being effective. Please pray for their health and strength, for God to use them to bear fruit for the kingdom and for Him to open new doors of ministry in 2022. They touch many lives, some of which are quite troubled in these days and they need to exercise strong leadership, great wisdom, varied pastoral skills and much patience.



On a practical note, we are still trying to secure a new bank account with the help of the Scandinavian congregation. But, as ever in Spain, things are not straightforward and we have hit obstacles which need to be overcome or another way found to enable this to happen. Please pray for us in this frustrating process. The English Church now has its own website <https://englishchurchbenidorm.com> Do visit it to find out more and see what events are taking place weekly during the first part of the year. Pray too that more people will be returning to Benidorm in 2022 and many will find their way to the church and find salvation.

Paraclete Christian Training Centre, Kuwadzana, Zimbabwe



Sadly we have not been able to visit Zimbabwe since January 2020 and internet connections are pretty sporadic which means it has not been easy to get full information from Jonah Masaka and our team there to enable us to get a handle on how people are coping with the pandemic in that needy nation of the world. From our emails and WhatsApp calls (when they work), it has been good to hear that all our staff and the people we work with have generally been kept safe and have been able to weather all the storms of recent days. Again we are so grateful to Revd Jonah Masaka for his faithful and tireless leadership of the work there - overseeing the pre-school, the secondary College and the Bible School. As here in the UK, all levels of education have been affected by Covid. The schools have had periods of both full functioning and closure. When they have been allowed to open, the staff have worked very hard to keep the centre safe with disinfecting, checking students' temperatures at the gate, providing extra washing facilities etc. Unlike us here in the UK, the secondary school students did sit examinations and currently we are waiting to hear their results, especially for our 20 or so sponsored students who are particularly needy and studying in very challenging circumstances. Sponsorship is a great way of practically supporting the work of PCNI and making a big difference to one young person and their family - giving them self-respect by receiving an education that otherwise might not be open to them and hopefully enabling them to be successful in their studies. Please do enquire if this is something you might want to get involved with.

The Bible School has also continued to meet, albeit somewhat sporadically and some students are now ready to graduate. Sadly we are not able to be in Zimbabwe in February when this normally takes place so we are having to make interim arrangements. The hope is that we might be able to travel say in the Autumn and catch up fully with all that has happened and again strengthen our partnership in the Gospel after some years apart due to travel restrictions. Please pray for Jonah, the staff, all the teachers working in difficult circumstances, for protection on their health, material provision and for success for students in their examinations. Please pray also that we will always have enough income to support the work there whilst the country is still so impoverished. Should you wish to support us, please visit our website which shows the different ways you can do this. Please note we have recently changed our online giving platform to Charities Aid Foundation.

What will 2022 bring? We pray for God's favour upon us, for fruitfulness in ministry in each project, for God's faithful provision and protection on our personnel and property in such challenging days. For myself 2022 is a year of change as I retire from the pastorate of the church in Southwick at the end of June 2022 and seek God's plans and purposes for my future ministry with PCNI and beyond. Hopefully I will have more time to devote to our projects. I will be spending some time in Benidorm this coming year, hopefully having a trip to Zimbabwe and I hope to be leading a trip to Israel in November with a group of Zimbabweans. Any PCNI supporters who might be interested to join, please be in touch. With our Zimbabwean friends, it's always a colourful and joyful trip. We thank God for your ongoing interest and support. Please be in touch if there is anything else you want to know. May God keep you safe and bless you for your generosity and use you for the sake of his Kingdom yet more fully and fruitfully in 2022.



Blessings **Revd Lynda Hulcoop, Director Paraclete Christian Network International January 2022**