

HORIZONS

I MUST
WORK WHILE
IT IS DAY

AT HOME AND ABROAD

THE NIGHT
COMETH WHEN NO
MAN CAN WORK

Assembly Work in Australia and Papua New Guinea

Willians and Kylie Alcala



Spanish meeting in Brisbane.

Willians and Kylie are on the left side and Javier and his family on the right side.

Spanish work in (and from) Australia

We thank the Lord for His continuous help with the work among the Spanish-speaking population in Brisbane. The work is always challenging, but the Lord has blessed this small effort with some visitors showing interest. We were recently encouraged by a young Colombian man who was received to assembly fellowship. He was saved a couple of years ago here in Australia through the testimony of a cousin who attends a denominational church. After coming to our meetings and having several conversations with him, he came under the conviction of the uniqueness of gathering unto the name of the Lord. Around that time, our son Michael (17) also was received to the assembly, bringing much joy to our hearts.

We took a lovely family to the airport a few weeks ago, husband and wife with two young children. They were returning to Colombia for one year to help with the new work in their hometown. Twelve years before, when they arrived in Australia, she was a young Christian away from the Lord and had married an unsaved man with no interest in the gospel.

We met Javier and Paola and invited them to the meetings in Spanish, but although she was pleased, he wasn't. Paola's mother, a sincere Christian from a denominational group, was visiting them and told us how difficult it was to present the gospel to him.

But one day, the Lord saved Javier while he was in an ambulance, and he realized that he was not ready for eternity and remembered what he had heard about the gospel. Later he was baptized, and he and his wife were received into assembly fellowship and are very active. A few years later, Paola's mother, Flor Maria, came to visit. However,

due to the travel restrictions in 2020, she stayed here for almost two years. After observing our meetings and learning from the Scriptures, she also was received in assembly fellowship.

Flor Maria returned to Colombia at the end of 2021 and has been sharing the gospel with relatives and friends, encouraging brethren from the nearby assembly, Ibaguè, to visit her hometown, Girardot, and visit and preach. Last year I was there for a few days and had the privilege of preaching for several nights with Alan Knott. A few months later, Javier's father got saved, a real encouragement to all of us. The need was evident of someone moving more permanently to Girardot to help with the new work, and Javier and Paola decided to go back to Colombia for one year to help as much as they could with the new work.

Papua New Guinea

Last year we visited Papua New Guinea twice. Our previous visit was in November 2019, but travel restrictions imposed due to the pandemic made it impossible to go anywhere for two years. We went there in June and then again in December. The Lord has preserved the work, but we noticed that some believers were discouraged for several issues and are not gathering anymore. We found that only a few were still attending in one particular place. However, in Belova and Mugmap, we saw a slight growth but also noticed the need for solid Bible teaching. Many denominational groups surround them, and new believers can be easily led away from the assembly. In Hiribi, Papua New Guinea, During both visits, we spent much time teaching from the Bible, including many personal conversations.

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HORIZONS PUBLISHING POLICY

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Editorial Note:

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Due to COVID 19, we have not published a printed issue of HORIZONS. This issue is only online or as requested by e-mail until further notice.

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GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD

Australia, Papua New Guinea, Albania,
Ukraine, China, El Salvador,
Costa Rica India, Cyprus
Sri Lanka



Continued from page 2

Still, we also had many opportunities to preach the gospel. We pray that the Lord will help them develop strong convictions, and we particularly pray for those in responsibility.



Above *Ministry meeting and an open-air gospel meeting in Hiribi, Papua New Guinea*

We are praying that other believers from Australia and other countries may have an exercise to go to them and help with the work, even for a few weeks.

Assembly Work in Australia

It has been a joy to see most of the assemblies in Australia going back to having conferences and special meetings. In November last year, we had a series of gospel meetings at the hall for ten nights, the first

one in Brisbane since 2019. We were encouraged by the excellent support from believers from the assemblies in the area, and we had a few visitors coming to the meetings. Several believers helped distribute thousands of invitations around the hall, so seeing God's people united in this effort was good. Recently there have been gospel efforts by other brethren in Tasmania and Melbourne, so we thank the Lord for his help.

In January this year, I visited several assemblies in Melbourne for ministry of the Word of God, being my first visit to that city since 2018. After being there, I went to Sydney and had the privilege of helping with their first Bible conference since January 2020. I have noticed that in all these activities attendance has been good, and in some cases even better than before the pandemic. It is good to see believers, especially young Christians, with a real interest in coming together for conferences and gospel meetings. May the Lord help us to keep this interest in the things of the Lord. Back home, I have been teaching the Bible class at our home assembly, Conference Hall, for the last couple of months. We have been working on the New Testament assembly due to many new believers and visitors coming on Lord's Day morning.

Future plans

In the will of the Lord, my wife and three of our children are going overseas at the end of March, and we will be spending most of our time in Colombia. Our exercise is to help with the work in the border between Colombia and Venezuela and visit the northern part of the country, where Kylie grew up as a missionary kid.

The Work in Tirana, Albania

Enris and Sylvia Nase

In September, we had our three-day annual retreat with the assembly. We considered the Epistle to the Philippians, "The Lord Jesus our example," our main theme. This year we were delighted to invite the believers from the small assembly in Prizren, Kosovo, to join. We were thrilled that some families could make the journey down for fellowship. Hearing our brethren pray and seeing them enthusiastically absorb the teaching was a real joy.

Last month, we were able to recommence outreach in the form of English classes twice a week. The purpose is solely to create new contacts with whom to share the glorious news of the Gospel. Around a dozen young people are availing of the opportunity, and some of our young believers are also attending to befriend and arrange follow-up conversations. Over the next few weeks, we will organize further outreach activities to invite and engage with them more. We have seen blessing in salvation as a result of the English classes in the past, with one young woman and her husband coming into fellowship, so do **prayerfully** remember this effort that the Lord will be pleased to bless further in salvation.

Last week we were present again at the Tirana International Book Fair with our stall. We distributed hundreds of 2023 calendars and other Christian literature to those who visited, with many showing an interest in spiritual matters. One young man who engaged in conversation at the book fair a few years ago called to tell me that he had subsequently got saved and now attends a local church in his area. Another young teenage boy stopped by and shared his story of conversation also. Unfortunately, his parents do not allow him to attend a church or discuss spiritual matters, so it

was nice to encourage him, having experienced restrictions as a young teenage convert myself, and to give him a selection of written material home to read. A good number of the believers from the assembly were involved in helping out this year.

Online teaching materials

The online Bible training has commenced. Six students study the life of the Lord Jesus through the Gospels, and three others study the Old Testament. Others have requested to join, and we are encouraged by the interest expressed, especially among the young. Work continues translating and sourcing good material for additional subjects.

"Can we trust the Gospels?" is another book we just printed in time for the Book fair. It is about the reliability of the Gospels! The book gives a clear answer to several objections that Islamic and Atheistic world-views raise about the truthfulness of the Gospels. Living between these two main world views in Albania, we consider it essential to help the believers answer any who asks for a reason for the hope in them.

ABC Christian Clinic

Sylvia continues to support the palliative side of the clinic with medical supplies and mentoring. The numbers attending have tripled in the last year, and many opportunities present for sharing the Gospel.

The Work in Lutsk Ukraine

Timothy & Rhoda Sloan

On February 24, it was one year since the war started. We are preparing ourselves for what one military commander said – it will be Europe's biggest and bloodiest battle since World War 2. We at present have electricity, water, and internet for approx.

Eight hours per day, sirens are sounding constantly, warning us to go to the air raid basements, and military jets are heard overhead daily. Both sides are preparing and being wise, and so are we. We will not leave as our safety is not our priority. God has put us here with a task to fulfill, and we are to remain focused on our goal – the preaching of the Gospel and the upbuilding of the local assembly in Lutsk. We appreciate your prayers; there are many times during the day when the going gets tough and daily living is quite a challenge, but we remember God's people are praying, so "why should I doubt or fear? My Father's Hand will never cause, His child a needless tear."



Assembly

We had the joy of baptizing three believers recently, and they have been brought into the assembly fellowship. In the photograph, you can see Lyuda (nearest), Lena, and

Kostja. Lyuda was saved a number of years ago and has been a very faithful attendee at all assembly meetings for a long time. Lyuda's younger sister has been in the assembly since it commenced over 20 years ago. Lena moved from the East of Ukraine and got saved just after the war started. Her son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter were saved, baptized, and brought into assembly fellowship shortly after they fled the East in 2015. Kostja was saved last year after the war started, and it is nice to see him joining his wife Julia, who has been in the assembly for about 15 years. Another sister Oksana was to be baptized but couldn't get the evening off due to work commitments. We will baptize her soon.

Gospel meetings

In the New Year, we decided not to give out food bags every Thursday but give them a few times each month. Numbers are still excellent, and the photograph shows the people waiting outside to enter. The meeting should start at 6 pm, but when we open our doors at 4.45 pm, we have to close them at 5.20 pm as we can't take any more. We commence approx. 5.30 with a little singing, followed by the Gospel message, and we close with three brethren praying for the salvation of souls and the need of the country. After the meeting closes, we serve soup and a hot meal for all present.

Orphanage renovations 2023!

We are practically finished. The cleaners are in, and we are putting the final touches to many of the bedrooms and bathrooms - Mirrors, pictures, bathroom furniture, soap dispensers, hair dryers, etc. There are a lot of bits and pieces but nothing big except the commercial kitchen and dining room. With so many men in the military, suppliers are finding it challenging to work within our timescale, and so, for many things, we have to wait. We asked two people last week about joining the workforce in the home.



Keeping in mind that children will need to be transported to school etc., and the Gospel Hall, we have begun to think about transport. We bought a 2016 (7-seater) Volkswagen Caddy and are presently looking at two used (7-seater) Toyota Proace City Versos in Poland. We are looking at how we can get them into Ukraine and the amount of tax we must pay at the border. You can keep up-to-date with the latest news by following us on **Facebook**:

Calendars 2023!

We printed 35,000 calendars for 2023, which have been mainly distributed around Lutsk, Ivano Frankivsk and sent to the front-line troops. God has promised that His word will not return to Him void, so it is our responsibility to get His Word out among the people. We are thankful for all in the assembly who give up their Saturdays to help spread the Gospel.

Literature

This year we will concentrate on printing Gospel Tracts and small assembly booklets. If you know of something in English that would benefit us, please forward a copy, and we will get it translated and printed. We always seek Gospel material to distribute on the streets of Lutsk and neighboring villages.

El Salvador

Kevin and Patricia Flett

This year marks 25 years for Patty and me being in El Salvador. It hardly seems possible. However, when we stop and think of our boys who were 9, 6, and 2 and are now married, and one of them has made us grandparents twice over; we cannot but stop and thank God for all his goodness and realize that his mercies are renewed every morning.



Kevin and Patricia Flett

We are thankful that the work here has continued to move forward after a few years of different times due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The gospel is being presented not only in the halls but in outreach works as well. Israel Castro (commended worker) and

a Scandia Assembly group have been preaching the gospel weekly in Los Laureles. The attendance is good, and several have professed to be saved. There is no assembly in the area, so we value your **prayers** for this new work. In the western part of the county, Mario Cañas (commended worker) has been preaching the gospel in a small rural neighborhood called New York. Those who professed faith in our Saviour are now attending the local assembly of El Carmen. Please **pray** for this outreach.

In Pasaquina, La Union, the gospel is preached twice a week, as well as a children's class. This new work is being carried on by Carlos Rios (commended worker) and others from the Los Jotes and Santa Rosa assemblies. On Tuesday, Carlos and his brother-in-law Elvin received permission from the local high school to give a 15-minute message from the Bible in a few of the classrooms. These classes are mandatory for the students. This is not a "Christian school," but the director feels young people need a "word from the Bible" today. **Prayer** is appreciated for these men as they present Christ every week. Some students now attend the weekly meetings in the rented building in Pasaquina.

The week leading up to Easter Sunday is a holiday for many people; therefore, it's also a busy time for conferences throughout the country. We are thankful that this year these meetings are back to normal. There will be six different conferences from East to west. Some of the bigger assemblies hold their own while others join together so that the 21 assemblies can meet to hear God's word and enjoy fellowship with other believers,

something we have missed over the past few years.

Patty and I continue to be a steady help in the assembly in Santa Tecla, la Libertad. The meetings are all back to normal, Remembrance, Sunday School and Ministry, Gospel Preaching, Prayer, and Bible Study. We continue to be encouraged by a good group of young people coming to the Santa Tecla Sunday evening gospel meeting. We pick them up at 4 in the afternoon and, upon arriving at the hall, have a small activity with them, Sword Drill, Bible Pictionary, Bible quiz, etc.; sing, and a gospel message followed by refreshment. They range in age between 15 and 20 and are from broken homes. Some profess to be saved, so please pray for spiritual growth and salvation.

Quebrada Amarilla, Costa Rica

Johnny and Mabel Marin



Baby Marin (Jeremiah Tyler)
born March 27, 2023

We started the new year as we often do in El Salvador. As usual, our trip to El Salvador consists of visiting multiple assem-

blies and attending and serving in numerous meetings and outreaches. To start the year, we also had the privilege to support Mabel's mom, Etelinda, who often works alongside sister Hazel Brownlie in creative ways to serve and share the gospel with their communities. This year Hazel provided the resources to put together many care packages to distribute to needy families in the town of Los Jotes, where Mabel grew up. We were able to help Etelinda with the purchasing, putting together, and distribution of the packages.

We returned to Costa Rica around mid-January to start back up with the work in Quebrada Amarilla. The beginning of the year started with many challenges: from health issues such as flu, severe digestive issues, and food poisoning, along with other problems like plumbing and electrical issues, refrigerator breakdowns, and seemingly constant car troubles. But thankfully, through it, the Lord has proven faithful, even in the little things.

As usual, it was a bit of a slow start as many kids and families travel during the holidays, and many don't return until school starts. But as time passed, our group started taking shape, and attendance numbers started returning to normal as many came out to hear the gospel. Sunday nights, we continued with our study of the Local Church. This has created a higher sense of



responsibility and understanding concerning their testimony and service to the Lord.

We also started a men's meeting on Tuesday nights. Though we have only gathered twice when writing this update, we have already seen a significant improvement in the men's motivation to grow in their relationship with the Lord and the knowledge of His word. It has also given us a great sense of companionship among the men present as we study what God desires of his men and how we can better fulfill our role as men in our homes, church, work, and communities, according to His Word. This environment also allows us to push each other harder and encourage each other to show up and prepare throughout the week. Two new young guys from Nicaragua, Misael, and Jonny, have joined us in the many weekly meetings. They are both saved and baptized and eager to be involved and active wherever possible. We believe they will significantly help the work and motivate the other men to become more involved.

On Tuesday, March 14th, the house Jonny (from Nicaragua) was living in and his neighbors burned down". Thankfully no one was injured, but they all lost everything they had. We were able to help with food, beds, and clothing; many from the community also came together to help them with anything they could. As far as anyone knows, the fire was caused by a short-circuiting issue, which is no surprise, since our entire neighborhood has a terrible electrical network. The day before this fire, we were visiting a cousin of mine that had lost everything to a house fire the Friday before the incident in the city. Thankfully no one in that fire was injured either. Some ending notes and points for **prayer**: most permits for building a hall have come through quickly. We are just waiting on the permits for water and plumbing, we were told these would take a month, and it has been almost three,

We trust it will work out in the Lord's timing. One of the things that we have started **praying** about is a form of transportation for the work. We currently have a car that seats six passengers when there is no car seat, but sometimes our kid's classes require us to transport up to thirty or more kids, plus some adults, and this would probably be a lot easier done with a bigger vehicle such as a van of sorts. We appreciate your **prayer** regarding this matter.

Mabel's mom has come to stay with us for about a month and a half to help us out with the arrival of the baby and the first month of adjusting to the change. We are very excited about his arrival,

That is all we have to share for now. We truly appreciate all who support and pray for us and the work of the Lord here in Costa Rica. Please continue to **pray** for the souls that still need saving and for the growth and discipleship of those who have professed faith in Christ.

Hong Kong, SAR of China

John & Karen Short

We are from Australia, missionaries for 58 years serving and living in Hong Kong, China. On our arrival in 1964, China was tightly locked down behind the "Bamboo Curtain." The disastrous Cultural Revolution of 1966 was about to be unleashed upon all of China and would last for ten tragic years.

Hong Kong was then a unique British Colony known as "The Pearl of The Orient" and was the great escape route for hundreds of thousands of desperate refugees. I worked in an assembly clinic in a refugee area in those early days. I pulled teeth in the mornings and learned the Cantonese language in the afternoons.



John & Karen Short

After many refusals, we were granted permission in 1980 to enter mainland China. We commenced our ministry throughout China's 30 great provinces and municipalities. What was our ministry? It was to publish and distribute hundreds of thousands of portions of GOD's Word via the Christian Book Room, a century-old gospel witness in China.

Along with others who believe in literature ministry, we knew that placing Bibles in China after the Cultural Revolution would be the foundation of future growth and lasting fruit in modern China. We have seen the Lord build a vast network of active co-workers and distributors of GOD's Word. We also print and distribute Gospel and Assembly distinctive materials. Writers such as William MacDonald, Alfred Gibbs, C. H.

Mackintosh, and Harry Ironside comprise the significant source of our publications.

We reckon a day as unfulfilled (even lost) if we have been unable by the grace of GOD to sow some of the GOOD Seed somewhere, somehow, especially throughout China, but also in all of Southeast Asia.

Amid current restrictions and difficulties, we can report that we completed 100,000 copies of "The Light of The World" gospel message last month and are now undertaking 10,000 copies of the "Safety, Certainty & Enjoyment" for the March project in Shandong.

Am I aware of this? The going rate for any sacrifice we make for Christ is great. The ordinary flat rate is ten thousand percent! "Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time – houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions – and in the age to come, eternal life." Mark 10:29-30

That statement – "hundredfold" in terms of present-day business is "ten thousand percent!" and the enjoyment of eternal life! PTL. Beloved friends, give us time for service, sacrifice, and suffering for Christ Jesus our Lord until He comes. (Malachi 3:16, Hebrews 10:37, 1 John 2:28)

For four years, we have not been able to obtain a travel visa to visit believers inland: we, however, rejoice to have the reverse taking place, for because of the fact we cannot go to them; co-workers and others have been able to travel and visit us. This month we have already had visitors from India/Middle East, Malaysia, Australia, and the northeast of China.



John Short & coworker Bo Suk (88)

It is a gracious provision of the Lord to have our “Timothy” brother David Wang traveling back to us after a visit to his Shandong hometown. How outstandingly rare it is to have a trained-in-China military man as a full-time worker in the CBR literature ministry. This provision blesses us.

Thankfully the draconian virus controls are mostly lifted here, and real-time distributors have re-surfaced requesting materials as seed to be sown. PTL. (We especially value distributors, they are rare!)

The Work in India & Overseas

Joy & Reji Muringathery

Beginning the Ministry as a young man

A long journey of 42 years in the glorious work of the Lord with amazing experience of solid evidenced realities of what we read in scripture. Oh, what a mighty God we serve! I was 18 when I commenced my missionary work in obedience to the call of God. The Lord placed me in a kitchen of a bible school cooking for 20 boys, and I was paid 100 rupees (less than 2 dollars), with which I started supporting my missionary work. It is good for a man that he bears the yoke in his youth. (Lam.3:27). That’s how I developed the skill of pioneer evangelism. It was a privilege to care for missionaries who used to come and stay with me in my earlier days of ministry. God gave me the gift of hospitality. I would draw water from the well to wash their clothes by hand. I’d cook their meals on a kerosene stove and give them my bed for a comfortable night’s sleep. Being young, I’d sleep on a bench. It was a blessing to serve them.

The Assembly in Mumbai

The Lord’s work is continued in fellowship with a local assembly, Bethel Christian Assembly, Santacruz, Mumbai. I used to gather people together in the evening. Brethren from Santacruz would come to teach the group week after week. The Lord blessed the labour and made it fruitful to the praise of His glory. The group joined in fellowship, and it did please the Lord to raise an assembly testimony in Vasai, a place predominantly populated by Catholics. I experi-

enced opposition and persecution on several occasions, but the Lord preserved me, and the work went on for the glory of God. The Lord is at work, building His house, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

“Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it.” (1Thess. 5:24; Deut. 7:9; 1 Cor.1:9) No doubt, Great is His Faithfulness!



Joy and Reji Muringathery

Tract ministry emphasized

One tract is sufficient for the salvation of the perishing soul. I had tracts printed in different languages, sent them around our country, and sent them in English Overseas. (As of now, our tracts stock is exhausted and getting ready to print. We print once every three years). Currently, our mission consists of -- *strengthening the things which remain, *nurturing children in the

Faith *disciplining our dear young people so that they may be established in the most holy faith and develop deep convictions based on those things which are most surely believed among us. * Evangelism. *Biblical counseling and teaching. *maintaining the literature ministry by printing and publishing scriptural study books *visiting and caring for the aged and widows *encouraging servants of God practically who are not generally known.

Publication Ministry

One of the study books published in India is. “Gathering Unto His Name” by the late Norman Crawford. I was privileged to know him and associate with him. He gave me written permission to print and publish this book in India. The Lord enabled me to do this, which has been widely distributed. Presently the book is getting translated into various Indian languages. Great is our vision, and it is the Lord's doing.

COVID

During COVID, the Lord led us to commence an online ministry. It consists of systematic online Bible teaching in English every day except the Lord's Day, from 7 AM to 8 AM. Let me say that from 2nd Oct 2020 to 2nd Oct 2022, more than 80,000 believers logged in to study the good Word of God. Godly assembly servants of God from India and Overseas (brethren like David McKillen, Bryan Stewart, Clive Barbar, Willians Alcalá, and Dean O'Mard) taught us

various truly glorifying subjects to God and edifying to the saints around the globe.

The Lord has done all things well to the praise of His glory. Not unto us, not unto us, but we give glory unto His name.

Look, dear child of God.

We won't be here for long. Our Lord is coming soon! It may be morning, noon, or evening, but it will be soon. "Choose ye this day whom ye serve. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Only one life will soon be past, but only what is done for Christ will last for eternity. Therefore, we must redeem the time for the days are evil. Let us be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. We must occupy until He comes. "And, behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Revelation 22:12. **MARANATHA!**

Limassol, Cyprus

Michael and Shirley McKillen

After almost 20 years in the Rep of Ireland, we moved to Limassol, Cyprus, in July 2022 - leaving two of our oldest children, Beth and Joel, behind and bringing our youngest, Erin, with us. During our time in Ireland, we were privileged to see the Lord commence a new assembly in Gorey (an hour south of Dublin.) We had always imagined that when the time came to move, the Lord would send us to another part of Ireland. It was, therefore, quite a surprise when, over the past few years, He began to challenge us about serving in Cyprus. We were sad to leave behind our brothers and sisters in Gorey but confident that just as

the Lord was directing us, He would continue to direct them. Please pray for the elders and the rest of the assembly to adjust well to the changes and flourish as they grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ.



Logos School Cyprus

Although we seek to serve as widely as possible here in Cyprus, it has been a privilege to get involved with some aspects of life at Logos School. The school caters to approximately 300 children, from kindergarten to secondary level, from various religious, socio-economic, and cultural backgrounds. Their education is (thankfully!) carried out entirely in English, an official language on the island. Shirley volunteers to teach a Maths class for a few hours each week and has commenced a weekly 'Maths Clinic' for those who need extra help. Michael has weekly opportunities to share the Word in senior and junior assemblies.

At the end of last year, we ran a parenting course in the school. A few parents expressed an interest in learning more about Christianity. As a result, this year, we have been running a Christianity Explored course on Friday evenings. Although attendance has not been overly consistent, seven people have joined us.



Michael and Shirley McKillen (Left) with Graham and Caroline Webb

The group is very diverse - with two Cypriots, two Russians, a man from Cameroon, an Israeli Jew, and a Muslim lady from Syria! A few of these folks are Believers keen to learn, and others need Christ. All of this presents challenges on both the basic communication level and the different world views of those present. **Pray** for help and a genuine work of the Spirit of God.

Shirley has recently commenced helping a few Logos School teachers run an ESL (English as a Second Language) program for mums once a week. Please **pray** that these ladies would be helped and friendships would be formed, and good opportunities arise for sharing the gospel.

In late February, we helped at a retreat for 44 children from the three senior years of Logos School. Michael had the opportunity to share the Word with them and to look after the senior boys' Q&A sessions after the

talks. These turned into fruitful sessions as the boys asked question after question. One of these sessions lasted nearly 2 hours! **Pray** for all who attended that the Lord might bless in salvation. We plan to do a special event with some of these young people soon to give them further opportunities to ask questions and encounter the truth.

We have appreciated being able to work alongside our colleagues, Graham and Caroline Webb, who have poured much time into spiritually caring for young teachers and former pupils who are now working in the city, alongside some other locals - many of whom are young in the faith. We meet with this group for Bible study and fellowship twice monthly and conduct several residential Bible Study weekends with them throughout the year.

In March, Michael was asked to participate in a men's Bible teaching conference in the city, organized by a Belarusian brother keen to see men get more Bible teaching. It was

good to have about 35 men together for the evening. Their eagerness to learn is encouraging, and there is a great need for solid teaching among God's people here. Please **pray** for wisdom as we seek to find a way of more regularly helping some of these men.

Although still a conservative country, the winds of change that have chilled much of the Western world are also starting to blow here. Naturally, among the younger generation, social media is hastening this change. So it was a privilege for Shirley and I to be invited by Logos School to help in several specially organized PSHE (Personal Social & Health Education) classes dealing with issues relating to identity etc. **Pray** for the teachers who daily seek to care for and counsel the children in many ways.

We would appreciate **prayer** for the Lord's continued guidance on where exactly He would have us focus our energies. Please **pray** for wisdom for those who have to make decisions regarding the future development of Logos School, especially regarding the need for new teachers for the 2023/24 academic year and beyond. There are currently openings in Physics, Maths, Greek, Upper Primary, and Reception, as well as for a Nursery assistant.

Sri Lanka

Jack Hay (Scotland)

Sri Lanka is located off the southeast coast of India, "the tear-drop at the end of India". Since the tsunami of Boxing Day 2004, I have visited the island twenty seven times, the latest being in company with Eric Baijal in early October 2022.

The Pandemic

As in many other nations, the authorities tried to curb the spread of the virus by im-



posing lockdown conditions, and these were strictly monitored by policemen and soldiers patrolling the streets. When assemblies were eventually allowed to gather, the police were in attendance to ensure that a register of attendees was being kept, and that temperatures were being checked. The police are still present, but are less intrusive now.



Jack & Lillian Hay — Fifty years in the Lord's work — 54th Wedding Anniversary



Food distributions to the assemblies

The Economy

The nation is virtually bankrupt, and a lack of foreign currency has dried up essential imports. Lengthy power cuts and rocketing food prices add to the people's misery, so there is a great need.

In recent months there have been many food distributions to the assemblies, made possible by the generosity of saints from the West. The believers in Colombo make a massive effort to source the food delivered to the hall. It is then divided up to be transported to the various provinces of the island. On arrival, sacks are filled for distribution to needy families.

Colombo

Eric and I visited the island over two weekends at the beginning of October. Colombo is the capital of Sri Lanka, and an assembly of around 90 gathers at Bethesda Gospel Hall. As usual, on this visit, both weekends were spent in Colombo. We started on Friday with a ministry meeting in the yard of some sisters. It was in the dark because of a power cut, but around 80/100 believers were present, an encouraging start. The Saturday morning children's meeting in the Dematagoda area of the city brought over 150 young people, three times the pre-Covid numbers. A highlight of our visit was when around 175 of their parents came to Bethesda for the Gospel meeting the next day, most hearing the Gospel for the first time. Both weekends, the Saturday after



Speaking with interpreter

noon children's meeting at Bethesda brought around 120 young people, again, a considerable increase from pre-pandemic levels. The youth Gospel Meeting saw 50/60 gathered, many of them unsaved. On the Lord's Day, the Word was ministered to the three language groups. On the second Lord's Day, we had a mini-conference with believers from Buderiliya and Kurunegala present, with 240 in attendance.



Baptisms in a jungle stream,

The East

On a Monday morning, we set off early for the east of the island, breaking our journey in the Central Province with meetings at two rubber plantations and outreaches of the Yatiyanthota assembly, with 40 and 50 attending at the two venues. Late in the afternoon, we had a Gospel meeting in Hatton with around 100 present, mostly Hindus. In the early part of the next day, after witnessing three baptisms in a jungle stream, we had two small meetings on tea plantations.

We arrived in the east late that afternoon and had a meeting under the palm trees at a believer's home, with around 90 present. The Gospel was preached, and teaching was given.

The next day was a full day of the conference at Valaichchenai when around 550 gathered, greatly exceeding expectations in the current crisis. God was gracious.

Continue to **pray** for Sri Lanka. The economic crisis continues, but the believers keep busy, and the work continues. In the will of God, I hope to return in September accompanied by Paul McCauley of Belfast.

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