

FOCUS

PRAYER • WITNESS • SERVICE

WINTER 2024

ONE MISSION
OMS • ONE MISSION SOCIETY

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ISSUE 20

FOCUS

PRAYER • WITNESS • SERVICE

Thank you!

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Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support for the work of One Mission Society. We pray that this magazine encourages you in your faith and informs your prayers. If there is an opportunity for someone from OMS to come to share at your church or event, please get in touch. If you are sensing that God is challenging you to explore your part in God's mission please know that we are here to listen, pray and support you as you follow God's leading. Also, it would be a great encouragement to us if you would spread the word and plan to attend one of our 'Sent' Conferences in 2025 (see back cover).

Melvin Kelly
Executive Director OMS UK

On the front cover: Summer English Camp, Hungary

ONEMISSION
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Melvin Kelly
Executive Director



Only God is Great

King Louis XIV of France became king at the age of four and reigned for 72 years and 110 days until his death in 1715 - the longest reign of any European monarch! Also known as Louis the Great and the Sun King, he regarded himself as an absolute monarch, believing his power came directly from God. He was a strong-willed ruler who was determined to make his kingdom a predominant power in Europe, so much so that other European leaders and nations felt threatened by his supremacy.

His life was characterised by great domination and his death was laden with pomp and ceremony! At the funeral ceremony, one candle illuminated the space to symbolise his greatness. However, Bishop Massillon, officiating at the ceremony famously snuffed out the candle exclaiming, 'Only God is great', leaving the space in complete darkness!

Times haven't changed. Too often, nations and their leaders are convinced that they have an aura of supremacy about them; and yet, the truth is, they are here but for a moment – they are transient but God is eternal. Only God is great. Then. Now. Forever.

As we approach another Christmas, let us contemplate true greatness: *When the angel appeared to Mary, he exclaimed, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."* Luke 1:30-33 ESV

While earthly kingdoms rise and fall, and leaders come and go; we take comfort from the truth that God is great, only God is great, the one who sent His only Son Jesus into the world as the everlasting servant King.

*From heaven, You came helpless babe
Entered our world, Your glory veiled
Not to be served but to serve
And give Your life that we might live.*

What amazing news we have to contemplate this Christmas. Come let us adore Him! *Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works all the peoples!* Psalm 96 v 3. Worship Him, declare Him, so that all people might join us in worshipping Him too!



worshipping with a joyful heart

For the first two weeks in August, myself and nine others had the opportunity to travel to Mozambique with One Mission Society to support the ministry of Somos Nós. Somos Nós aims to bring hope to those living with disabilities by providing wheelchairs, mobility aids, and sharing the Gospel.



After a long day of travel, we arrived in Maputo, a little tired but excited to get started. For most of us, this was our first time in Mozambique, and for me personally, it was my first mission trip abroad. Our team, which included two occupational therapists and a sports therapist, worked closely with the Somos Nós team, visiting different local areas, doing home visits, observing assessments, as well as taking part in fun activities like parachute games, bowling, and wheelchair volleyball. We even tried our hand at building wheelchairs, which thankfully isn't as hard as it might sound!

Throughout the trip, I had the privilege of participating in a range of activities. I sat in on assessments, visited a special needs school, helped lead a school assembly at the Christian Academy Mozambique, and participated in a sports activity day. Each of these experiences helped me better understand the amazing work Somos Nós is doing. The home visits gave us the incredible opportunity to chat to those living with disability who have received care from Somos Nós. While often sobering, it was great to see how Somos Nós has benefited them. Listening to their stories was sometimes difficult, but what struck me most was their positivity. They truly embodied Nehemiah 8:10 "...And do not be grieved, For the joy of the Lord is your strength", anchoring their lives in the joy of Jesus.

One of my favourite parts of the trip was getting to worship alongside the Mozambicans. Hearing their joyful singing in their local dialect, Changana, really reminded me of how we are all part of one global church. At times, differences in language and culture can make us feel worlds apart, however we worship the same almighty God who sent His Son to be our one true Saviour and this universal truth connects

us all. Their joy in worship was contagious, and they never missed a chance to pray, read scripture, or sing together. It led me to reflect on how much we often take for granted, and it



served as a reminder to be more grateful to God for the opportunity to worship Him with a joyful heart. Our attempts at speaking Portuguese were often more amusing than effective, but thankfully we had some amazing translators; Alberto, Milca, Melvin and Abigail, who helped us communicate and played such a key role in our time in Mozambique.



One day, we did team-building with the Somos Nós staff and volunteers, where in small groups, we discussed questions such as, “what causes disability?” and, “why should we work with people with disabilities?” It was a great opportunity to get to know the Somos Nós team more and exchange knowledge. The discussions sparked conversations about common misunderstandings of disability in Mozambique, such as the belief that it is a curse, the use of witch doctors to ‘cure disability’, as well as the challenges of medical negligence and inadequate healthcare. Charis, a member of our team, shared ways to help those with disabilities stay active while having fun. Beth and Jane led a session on preventing pressure sores for wheelchair users. Hollie guided a discussion on diabetes, which is often misunderstood in Mozambique, and Regina, a physiotherapist from the Somos Nós team, taught on the importance of proper posture, especially for those using a wheelchair.

It was a blessing to serve alongside, and build friendships with, the Somos Nós team and my fellow short-term team members. Each of us took responsibility for different aspects of the trip, and I learned so much from watching them lead with such dedication, kindness and compassion. Being part of this team was a great privilege, as we worked together to serve others and grow in our faith. There was a real sense of community and shared purpose, and I left Mozambique feeling both challenged and inspired by the people we met and the experiences we shared. I am thankful to God for the opportunity to witness His ongoing kingdom-building work in Mozambique and the prayerful support we received while away. Please continue to pray for the Somos Nós team and their work in Mozambique.

Would you consider joining one of our 2025 teams? See our opportunities on page 42!

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somos nós



Somos Nós endeavours to encourage churches and communities to embrace people living with disability.

Somos Nós means 'It's Us' to emphasise our heart to stand in solidarity with people living with disability. Your generosity can make a real difference in the life of someone living with disability, their family, a church or the wider community.



Over the season of giving, why not choose to use the opportunity to give something that will have a long-lasting impact?

To choose your gift go to: www.onemissionsociety.org.uk/somosnos



SN1 GIVE A BIBLE £7

Provide a Bible to someone living with a disability or a solar-powered audio Bible for those with a sight impairment or limited literacy ability.



SN2 GIVE NECESSITIES £20

Gift a basket of basic necessities to someone like Maria who provides foster care for a child living with disability.



SN3 TRANSPORT A WHEELCHAIR £35

Transform the life of someone like Isabel by covering the cost to ship and import a secondhand wheelchair from the UK to Mozambique.

SN4 PAY WAGES £40

Cover a week's wage for Constantino who lives with disability as he serves his community by fitting and repairing wheelchairs.





Merry Christmas

Christmas Around the World Quiz



When they saw the star,
they rejoiced with exceeding
great joy.

Luke 10:2 (KJV)

1. On what date do Ukrainians celebrate Christmas?

- A. 26th December
- B. 1st January
- C. 7th January

2. People in India use these for Christmas decorations

- A. Baskets
- B. Cows
- C. Poinsettias

3. What tune do Filipino children use to wish their friends a Maligayang Pasko?

- A. Happy Birthday
- B. Farmer in the Dell
- C. B-I-N-G-O

4. Mexicans do this at 00.00am on Christmas Day

- A. Sing lullabies
- B. Eat burritos
- C. Decorate a cactus

5. What do superstitious people in Spain do to encourage the sun to rise on Christmas Day?

- A. Shout
- B. Swing on a swing
- C. Walk backward

Bonus: Instead of decorating Christmas trees, what do kids in Brazil create for Christmas?

- A. Banana presents
- B. Nativity scenes
- C. Puppet shows





'Away from the body and at home with the Lord' **2nd Corinthians 5:8**

ALFIE KELLS, Newtownards

Alfie Kells, at the age of 103, received his 'home call' on the 11th September 2024, peacefully at his home at Killynether, Newtownards. Alfie, along with his wife Maud, came to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ on the same night at a mission held in Lisnaskea in 1955. Thereafter, they both became faithful followers of their Saviour. A deep interest in mission was one of the ways this was manifested. They supported many mission agencies, missionaries and Christian workers at home and abroad through their prayers, purse and in person. They had an interest in the work of OMS in particular. The Newtownards OMS Prayer Group was held in their home, they attended the OMS conference annually and they made various mission trips over the years. Alfie was one of the founding members of Men for Missions (MFM) UK in 1969. He participated in many MFM mission trips in various OMS mission fields over many years. His interest in, and prayers for, OMS continued right up to his home call, when he heard the 'well done, good and faithful servant' from God. Alfie was an encouragement and blessing to all who knew him. OMS extends our sincere prayers and Christian love to Alfie's four sons Walter, Trevor, Ian and Stephen and their families.



Heather Neely (nee Phillips) and Aimee Howarth, OMS missionaries to Mozambique, enjoying fellowship with Maud and Alfie

*Piece written by Donald Coulter
Retired OMS UK Worker*

The ministry of prayer is vital to sustain our OMS workers. Could you gather with others in your home/church for prayer and be 'rope holders' for those serving on the mission field?



a ministry of



Last year, the Men for Missions Christmas project was to raise money to help families displaced by the conflict between Israel and Hamas. Little did we know that a year later we would be looking at such a dreadful loss of life and destruction. Thanks to your generosity £3,369.50 has been sent to buy food etc. In a time of terrible need, many people learnt that other people far away were willing to help them because of Jesus' love.

This year our project is entirely different! We are coming alongside The Bible Society to help meet the amazing demand for Bibles in prisons. Right now, prisoners are turning to Jesus. People at their lowest are reaching out for hope. This is the time to put a Bible in their hands.

Men and women in urgent need of God's love are asking prison chaplains for Bibles but these chaplains cannot meet this growing demand by themselves. Will you be the one to provide those Bibles? Your generosity today will help to turn someone's life around. Access to the Bible is having a transformative effect in the darkest places.

Tim is a prison chaplain –

A prisoner came knocking on my chaplaincy door. He said, 'I've tried drugs, and they've not worked. I've tried sex, and it wasn't fulfilling. I've had a good go at alcohol. What do you have to offer me?' I just smiled and told the man, "Come in and let's talk." Within weeks, he had committed his life to Jesus, as Saviour and Rescuer.

This is life-changing stuff. There is such fertile ground for embedding the Gospel among prisoners. These men are not approaching Christianity as a hobby. They are desperate for change. I meet men who've grown up in care. Men who've been abused by their families. Men who've never been loved. It might sound strange to you, but that's their reality.

Last year the Bible Society gave chaplains like Tim almost 2,000 Bibles to give to prisoners. This year, with your help, the Bible Society could provide fifty per cent more, in a number of different languages.

As well as giving the Bible, you can open up its power as prisoners come together in groups to study. The Bible Course explores the big story of Scripture and helps people apply it to life. Tim says: *'The beauty of The Bible Course is that there's nothing like it. Andrew Ollerton emphasises the love of God as something seen clearly throughout the whole Bible.'*

Imagine a prisoner sitting in his or her cell for hours at a time. On a shelf is the Word of God. He reaches for it. What page will it fall open at? What message will God plant in his heart?

The Bible is the key to lasting change in the lives of prisoners. They cost about £10 each and Men for Missions would love to raise enough for 500 Bibles. You can put God's word in someone's hands today. Please consider giving. Thank you!



<https://donorbox.org/oms-mfmcp>



God had other plans

Nick Jones
Strabane Charity Shop
Manager & 2025 NI
Conference Speaker

My story of faith begins with a lady called Wendy inviting my mum to go to church. I'm so grateful that she did! Through that invitation my parents started going to that church and became believers in the Lord Jesus. I grew up with the privilege of believing parents, but sadly my mum suffered from cancer and died when I was just 14 years old. This caused me to question everything, how could a loving God let this happen? I spent the next eight years wrestling with the pain and I drifted further and further away from God.

In 2002, God arranged for me to be a leader on a Christian camp in Romania. I had just graduated and didn't know what I was doing, but the camp was short of a windsurfing instructor, and I thought it would be nice to see Romania! After this, I was planning to spend a year travelling and windsurfing. But, God had other plans, and through this experience, He gently challenged and ministered to me. After the 10 days in Romania, I agreed to go on a week long camp with my old church youth group. The talks were based on 1st John and I think this was the first time I really understood the Gospel. When I saw that Jesus had gone to the cross to die in my place for the way I had treated God, I could no longer question His love. I didn't understand why He let my mum die at such a young age, but I could hardly question His love once I understood the cross. This changed everything. I wanted to stop walking in the darkness and start living for Jesus.

This changed my plans for the year, instead of going surfing round the world, I went to Brazil with Latin Link. While working with a team of volunteers I developed good habits of prayer and Bible reading, and the Lord put it on my heart to serve Him with my life. When I returned from Brazil, I reluctantly began a career in law! I knew it wasn't what I wanted to do, but I had a contract already lined up, and in the Lord's providence it gave me time to grow as a Christian. Three years later I started a ministry trainee role in a church to test my sense of call to ministry. The church confirmed my calling and I was sent to Oak Hill Theological College to study Theology and World Mission.

It was at Bible college that my life would change again! It was there that I met Dorothy. I persuaded her to marry me, and she persuaded me of the need for Gospel workers in the Republic of Ireland! The Lord blessed us with two children. Bethany was born two months early and required life saving surgery at just two days old and William suffers with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. Facing suffering with Jesus has been so different to facing it without Him. His grace is sufficient for each day, and it is wonderful to know that He loves us and is working for our good.



After eight years of serving in the Church of Ireland, we felt we needed to leave and the Lord has wonderfully provided a house, church, schools and even a job in the wonderful charity shop in Strabane. I do hope to return to full time church-based ministry in the future, but we have been very grateful to serve One Mission Society through the Strabane Charity Shop.

I am very much looking forward to the NI Conference in February, where I will be speaking on the incredible love of God in sending Jesus into the world to create a new community. We will consider the staggering fact that before Jesus laid down His life for us He took time to pray for the unity of His church. This unity is to show to the world that Jesus was sent by the Father, so that the world may come to see the love of God. But we won't just be looking at John 17, we will also consider Jesus sending the disciples out into the world to proclaim a life-changing message of peace (John 20). I hope you will be able to make it and pray that you will be really encouraged and challenged by our time in John's Gospel.

What plans does God have for you?

We currently have four charity shops in Northern Ireland; Cookstown, Lisburn, Portglenone and Strabane. Each raises vital funds to support ministries around the world. The shops could all use additional volunteers to share the load, but there is a critical need in our Lisburn shop. Please get in touch if you could help!



1 Board of Directors
 Bill Anderson
 Eddie Currie
 Alan Russell
 Joanne Parkinson
 Pray for additional directors to join the board.

2 Julia Henry Ecuador


 Pray for Julia as she seeks the Lord's guidance for her future.


3 Vogan Family Ecuador

 Pray for Mark and Nube as they serve at BCC church and as they seek to set up the Miriam Project for vulnerable young women.

4 Michel Family USA

 Pray for Storly and Kate in their ministry to the Haitian people through 4VEH. Also, pray please for Hannah and Esther in their education.

5 Morton Family USA

 Pray for Jonathan and Lupita in their ministry with Red Nueva Vida (New Life Network) and for their sons Daniel and Noah.

6 Carl & Heidi Walton USA

 Pray for Carl in HR and Heidi serving at the front desk at OMS HQ.

7 Charity Shops
 Cookstown
 Lisburn
 Portglenone
 Strabane
Volunteers Prayer Groups

8



Miriam Project

9





10 Billy Coppedge UK

 Please pray for Billy seconded from WGM as he trains, and develops ways to access and engage with the Scriptures through orality.

11 Debbie Vogan Media Assistant

 Pray for Debbie in this busy season through her final year of her degree, her placement as well as her work with OMS.

12 Jim Magill Glocal Witness

 Pray for Jim as he connects with charity shops in the UK and develops links between local and global ministries.

13 Alan Russell Men for Missions


 Please pray for the work of MfM and for Alan Russell the UK MfM Director.

14 Heather Greer Database Manager & Finance Assistant

OMS Financial Supporters

15 Leslie Reid Area Rep N. Ireland

 Please pray for Leslie to have more opportunities to represent OMS in Northern Ireland.

“Devote yourselves to prayer”
Colossians 4:2



16 Pollock Family ROI

Pray for new people to come to church & workers to spread God’s word in Ireland. For Ben, Joshua and Caleb in school.

17 Montgomery Family ROI

Pray for opportunities to share the Gospel. Pray for spiritual fruit and for the kids in school. Praise God for all He is doing.

18 Eddy & Chris Delameillieure Belgium

Pray for more volunteers for the Helping Hand ministry and for the spiritual growth of the One in Christ Church.

19 Richardson Family UK

Pray for Fiona working with the Esther Project and in prayer ministry. Pray for Philip’s teaching schedule and safe travels.

20 Bruce & Mabel

Please pray for Bruce and Mabel as they encourage and mentor missionaries. Pray also for their children and grandchildren.

21 Jeannine Brabon Colombia

Pray for Jeannine’s health and for those who have come to faith that they will be discipled in the faith and grow in God’s word.

22 KK & Kay Outreach Birmingham

Pray for KK and Kay as they seek to reach the Hong Kong community with the Gospel. Pray for many souls to come to Christ.

23 Kelly Family Melvin Kelly UK ED

Pray for wisdom for Melvin in his leadership role, for Sharon as she returns to study at All Nations and for Abi, Joshua, Noah & Lydia.

24 Daniel & Gail Castro Member Care

Pray for Daniel as UK Ministry Ambassador. For Gail in Safeguarding. For them both in Member Care.

25 Cheryl Kelly Payroll

Pray for Cheryl as she serves as UK Payroll Officer and as she encourages the missionaries in this role.

26 Ali McClure Mobilisation & Communications

Pray for Ali in her two OMS roles. Pray for God to fill the 2025 teams and for new missionaries to be sent out.

27 Brenda Reid Training & Personnel

Pray for Brenda’s health and for her as she serves the missionaries and missionary candidates. Darina & Liam’s education.

28 Tommy Hui Leeds, UK

Pray for Tommy as pastor of the Rockgate church. For funding for a building and new outreach programmes.

29 Stephen Scholes Area Rep N. England

Pray for opportunities to share about what God is doing through OMS. Pray for new missionaries, prayer and financial partners.

30 31

Please pray for those who have served with OMS in the past and are now in their retirement.

*Jeanninebrabon@cs.com
Medellin, Colombia*

Dear Friend,

I love how God leads me, and His timing is perfect.

I headed out to the store but took a wrong turn. The minutes lost in turning around were orchestrated by God. In the parking lot, I greeted the security guard whom I led to Jesus earlier in the week. He told me, "I am reading the Bible you gave me." I head upstairs to the store, and as I was walking down the aisle to the ATM, I saw a man with a blaring message on his t-shirt, it was God's perfect timing for me to see it. I tapped him on the shoulder and asked if he knew what his t-shirt said. He responded, "No." So I translated it for him, "It says, 'You are going to lose your soul tonight,' but God does not want you to lose your soul. Jesus wants to give you eternal life." I shared Jesus, and he received the gift of God. He did not have a Bible, so I gave him one, with follow up material. His 8-year-old son, Felipe, received children's books with the Gospel. When God puts something like this before me, I cannot waste the opportunity, I have to seize it. It's thrilling to see how God leads people to Jesus every day!



Yes, God leads me. I had the honour of being chosen to go to Lausanne 2024, but God said, "No." I obeyed. Instead, God invited me to the Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast in New York, 15-16th September, where 600 Christians and Jews from 30 countries joined in prayer for the peace of Jerusalem and Israel!



On my two-hour flight from Charlotte, NC, to Pensacola, FL, the man next to me said, "Your phone is in Spanish." "Yes," I replied, "I'm from Colombia, and you?" "I'm from Mexico," he replied. He closed his eyes for the remainder of the flight. I prayed, "How do I share Jesus with him?" Towards the end of the flight, the Holy Spirit prompted me to get the booklet Steps to Peace With God from my backpack. Before landing, I handed it to Andres. He prayed with me; then he took his phone and said, "Do you mind if I take a picture of us? I want to record this important moment in my life!" It turns out that Andres was returning from two spiritual pilgrimages in Estonia, searching for a personal relationship with God. I gave him the Gospel of John and encouraged him, sharing that here he can see Jesus' relationship with His Father. When we landed, Sonia from Brazil met me to help me. Before I reached the luggage area, she prayed to receive Jesus! I gave her a New Testament. Thrilled, she hugged me. My host, Al, who was waiting for me gave me a hug. Then I heard, "I did not get one!" It was Andres, my new brother in Christ, and I gave him a great goodbye hug. It's so exciting to see Jesus bring individuals to Himself!



For 33 years, I've worked with men in prisons in Colombia. For 15 years I have prayed that we might hold a Wild at Heart Boot Camp in a penitentiary. God wrought a miracle as we were able to have one in the La Juana Penitentiary in La Dorada! We had incredible support from the INPEC (prison authorities). The first day, we were delayed entry for an hour by an operative in the penitentiary. So, our cooks had to work twice as fast to make breakfast and dinner. A great blessing was the fact that the director has us prepare the meals. This way, the schedule would not be interrupted by the prison grub arriving at any time. The men loved getting home-cooked food!

Despite the lost hour on the first day, the men were deeply touched. After the session on being a "fraud," a big strapping fellow with tattoos told me, "I am in prison, because I was a falsante, a fraud. I changed my name to escape capture. Thirty years later, my wife turned me in with my real name." He came to Christ during the three years he has spent so far in the prison. The second day, during the session on pain, "The Wound", he wept continually as did other men. There were powerful testimonies from those who were raised fatherless!

This connected with most of the 70 men present. The men really respected their time of silence alone. I went to one of the classrooms and noticed one man was talking. It turned out that Albeiro can read but not write, so I took over for him. "My trouble came when my brother was murdered and beheaded. Then, three more brothers were assassinated. I tried to get revenge, and for this reason, I am in prison now for 15 years. God is speaking to me. [Tears.] I forgive them." I continued with Albeiro in each of the times in silence. How priceless it was to hear him respond to God's redemptive work. I wrote his five letters to his children. His relationship with Jesus is so evident. To each one, he asked forgiveness for wounding their hearts and for not being present as a father, and he expressed his love for them.

We took time to pray with them one by one, if they wanted. A prisoner named Carlos opened up to me. "God blessed me by giving me a job in the kitchen. But I did not know how to handle my time. I neglected time alone with God and the Word. On my 72 hours leave outside of prison, I fell with a woman. I betrayed God. I want to be clean to be restored." I responded, "In Galatians 5, it says, 'not to have anything to do with the unfruitful works of the dark but expose them openly.' This, what you have done, is just like King David. Read Psalm 51, then Psalm 32." He prayed with tears, confessing his sin. I prayed over him. I encouraged him to find another brother in Christ to whom he can be accountable. The next day, he came up to me radiant. "I feel free; a huge burden fell off me yesterday. I read the Psalms, and God ministered deeply to me."



Toward the end of the second day, with their faces to the ground, men wept and surrendered their lives to God. They were completely receptive to the deep work of God. I prayed with countless men. A small-framed older man remarked to me with tears, "Esto es inolvidable." (This is an unforgettable time.) A note given to me said, "Gracias, spiritual mother, for your love and great effort to come here to this place. Thank you for the retreat."

I thank God for the amazing ministry He has entrusted to me in Colombia.

Gratefully,

Jeannine

Thank you for your gifts for ministry. It's great to purchase Bibles. To support this ministry financially please send donations referencing the Bible distribution via Jeannine Brabon.

Christmas Greetings from the Castros



Dear Friends,

As we come to the end of another year, we take time to reflect on the many ways we have seen God at work in and through our lives. We thank God that as always, He has been faithful in sustaining, guiding and providing. We rejoice that God Almighty became flesh and blood and moved (as Eugene Peterson puts it) into our neighbourhood. We celebrate the wonderful and invigorating presence of Emanuel, God with us!

This has been an exciting year, charged with many encouraging things and some challenges along the way.

Home:

Very providentially and with the help of some wonderful friends we were able to get a mortgage for the house we now call home! As late starters in home ownership, we are trusting God to sustain us and to give us the energy to be able to fulfil our obligation to the end.

Member Care:

As member care providers for OMS UK missionaries, we have been able to walk alongside some of our colleagues going through testing times. It has been both a privilege and a challenge that has made us even more acutely aware of the strains of missionary service abroad and the insidious works of the enemy. Pray for God's wisdom and sensitivity.

Colombia:

During the summer, we had the incredible opportunity of visiting Colombia. Gail, Melissa and Ruth had not been there for nine years, so it was a time for reconnecting with lots of family and friends. We had two lovely family gatherings on both sides of the family in which we saw around 60 family members! We spent the last couple of days in Bogotá, visiting dear friends from the two churches we worked with. It was such an encouragement to see God doing wonderful things in the lives of so many. Please pray for the church leadership handling some great opportunities, but also facing various challenges.

The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish.
John 1:14
(The Message)



Hope House:

During our time in Colombia, we also visited Hope House (Hogar Esperanza), the home for street kids that Gail helped to start back in the 90s. Not only is it steadily going but they have opened a new home for girls. Altogether in the two homes they have 18 children being nurtured and loved physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. We are trying to help Hope House practically with assessment, connections and translation as they pursue various grant opportunities in the UK. Pray for God's protection, guidance and provision as Hope House seeks to make a significant difference in the lives of disadvantaged children in Colombia.

Kenya 2025:

God willing, Daniel will be leading a team going on a short-term trip to Kenya in February 2025, with the aim of supporting OMS ministry in local churches and their communities. Please pray for God's direction and protection and for His provision of the funds needed.

Thank you!

We thank God for your life and thank you for your participation with us in God's work. We pray that this would be a special time of celebration, rest and reflection and that Jesus' presence would accompany and guide you through the new year.

Merry Christmas and a blessed 2025!

Daniel & Gail Castro



With Luzma, Hope House's Director and Andres, one of the first residents



Family Gatherings



Eddy & Chris Delameillieure
Kasteellaan 172
9000 Gent - Belgium



Tel: +32 (0)485 954 72 0
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Winter 2024

FEASTS, PRAYERS AND REVIVALS Part 2

Dear Friends,

A couple of Sundays ago, we celebrated "Sukkot" in the church, the Feast of Tabernacles. Some Jewish feasts have a clear fulfilment in the New Testament. One of these is the Feast of Passover being fulfilled by Easter. Christians recognise that Jesus is the Lamb of God whose blood on the wood of the door (the wooden cross) signalled forgiveness of sin, redemption from the slavery of sin and protection against the angel of death.

In the case of Sukkot, the fulfilment is less clear. However, it was during that feast that Jesus exclaimed in the temple "I am the Living Water", and also "I am the Bread of Life". Some commentators even claim that Jesus was born during this feast of Tabernacles. Even if this were not the case, the scripture that God "tabernacled" amongst his people finds its glorious fulfilment in Jesus. John 1:14, "the Word became flesh!" For One in Christ (1nC), such fulfilment is reason enough to have a feast. Most of us like to celebrate anyway! It doesn't necessarily mean that we build booths in the garden and sleep in them, looking at the clear sky through the hole-filled "roof" would be a bit of a problem in rainy Belgium!

The Democratic Republic of Congo used to be a Belgium colony. Our colonial history leaves most Belgians feeling deep remorse about what happened during that era. A few years ago, this was expressed publicly and forgiveness

was asked from the Congolese - and given. However, it is a privilege for us to now teach Religious Studies to many Congolese here in Belgium. These students are joined by many from several other European colonies like Ghana, Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone! Praise God for such opportunities.

We want to continue letting our light shine in the darkness. 1nC as a church, and IGLO as a group of churches in Ghent, continue to use every possible opportunity to evangelise. Herewith an invitation to come and join us in July 2025 to witness in the streets of Ghent during the city's annual festival. It is a unique occasion in which you can share your faith with many people. During the festivities, Ghent welcomes thousands of visitors from all over the world, many of whom speak English. Most of them are lost, waiting to be found. **Please pray** about coming, and let us know.

We are also looking for new opportunities to witness for Jesus. In July of 2024, the City of Ghent decided that any small group may sing songs in the streets and in the squares of Ghent. No official permit required! What an open door! Some churches are already working together in forming a semi-professional choir planning to sing carols on two Sundays in December. This happens indoors, in one of the main evangelical churches. The challenge set before us is to form smaller choirs of up to 10 people and sing carols in the streets.

THANK YOU:

- Over the past months, Amistad House of Prayer (HoP) has been taking part in several prayer initiatives. We were asked to lead some meetings in two prayer weekends in Brussels, one for the national elections and one for the general spiritual state of Belgium.
- Schaerbeek (Brussels): Amistad HoP was invited to contribute to the opening of a new prayer chapel near the red light district.
- Ghent: You may remember that last year we started a group for young medical professionals in Flanders, called "Christians in Healthcare". Recently, we held a seminar on how to restore Christian values to the workplace (the Saline Process). We were surprised by the number of Catholics registering for this evangelical event! Praise the Lord for these rather surprising developments.

PLEASE PRAY

- For the possibility of having regular Zoom prayer meetings with these young healthcare workers.
- Koekelberg (Brussels): The "Convocation24", a two-day Prayer Summit in November for healing the church in Europe, with Belgium as host country. Pray for unity and healing of the church in Europe. Check it out here: www.healyourchurch.eu. Some folk from the UK will be staying with us during the event.
- Three Christmas parties (with a message) are planned in December, one for the group of health care workers, one for the "Helping Hand" charity, and one for the church.
- Please remember the idea of witnessing through organising little choirs all over Ghent and specifically one or two during December, singing carols.
- Please pray for the Christian electrician who still has not finished the works in our house after 5 years.

May this coming Christmas period be a time of shalom and restoration in all our relationships.

May the glory of the Lord enlighten our churches just as the birth of Jesus brought light to a darkened earth 2000 years ago.

May 2025 bring the mercy and goodness of our Lord in a world torn apart by extremism and war.

As they say in our church, "Bendiciones!" (Blessings!)

Eddy & Chris



Melvin & Sharon Kelly

ISSUE 73
Winter 2024

Kelly

Somos nós

ONE MISSION
OMS • ONE MISSION SOCIETY

Melvin, Sharon, Abigail, Joshua, Noah and Lydia Charity No SC042980

Thank you for your ongoing prayers for our family, missionaries, ministry partners, volunteers and staff. Praise God, Joshua continues to enjoy good health - we thank God for his healing! It has been a very busy season for me (Melvin) in my role and your prayers are much appreciated. This is mainly because we have been operating without a Finance Officer! God willing, by the time you read this, we hope to have someone appointed!

I give thanks for the work of our Charity Shops. Join us in praying for more volunteers who would be able to give half a day per week. Please get in touch if you might be able to help. Praise God for the eight ministries that the shops support in four different countries – displaying and demonstrating the Gospel within their contexts with relevance and compassion.

We are excited to be able to offer short term teams to Kenya, Hungary, Mozambique and Sicily in 2025. More details at the back of the Focus magazine. Now is the time to sign up!



I recently had the privilege of visiting the Montgomery family in Crossmolina, Co Mayo and the Calvary Churches in Westport and Longford. I was encouraged to learn of people coming into contact with Christians, hearing the Good News and being encouraged to explore the radical truths of the Gospel. God is transforming lives through the eight fledging churches associated with Calvary Mission across the western counties of Ireland. To God be the glory! The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send forth labourers (Matt 9v37-38) to witness in every town and village.



It was also a privilege to connect with some of those directly involved in the 'What's the Story?' campaign across Ireland scheduled for St Patrick's Day and Christmas 2025 and Easter 2026. Learn more using the QR code on the left. Join us in prayer. You can also give towards this exciting venture by cheque, by electronic transfer using the ref WTS or using the link on the right.



The Somos Nós team have been very busy – please continue to pray. Some of the team flew from Maputo to Quelimane in October to receive a team from Through the Roof in the UK. Unfortunately, this team was turned away by immigration at the Milange border. The officials were suspicious that they (3 different nationalities) might be international observers with an agenda to critique the presidential elections that were held on 9th October 2024. Nevertheless, our Mozambique team proceeded with the wheelchair fitting clinics in partnership with the local church - distributing 119 mobility aids! Praise God!

Since then, there have been many accusations of an unfair election and allegations of corruption. An opposition party leader and his lawyer have been assassinated. As you can imagine, tensions are running high with many protests across the country and the security forces using live rounds to disperse the crowds. News channels report at least 30 fatalities so far. Please join us in prayer for wisdom and restraint. This a very difficult environment in which to conduct ministry as it is often not safe to be out. Please pray for the safety of all involved as they desire to serve in a very volatile situation.



With directions received over the phone, Ana travelled from Salamanga with her mother two and a half hours by public transport to the city with her mother in response to an invitation by our Somos Nós team to participate in a Health Awareness event and receive a wheelchair!

It was a miracle of God for this family to find out about Somos Nós! Some time before, Ana's father had travelled from the rural community of Salamanga to collect a wheelchair offered by someone in one of the neighbourhoods of Maputo. He was sorely disappointed when he realised that the wheelchair was in such poor condition that it didn't even seem useable. Nevertheless, poverty is a snare and in desperation, he took the chair.

While riding the chapa (minibus) back home, the wheelchair accidentally fell from the roof of the minibus where it was (poorly) tied. Flora, one of our volunteers witnessed the incident, and so approached the minibus in order to speak to Ana's dad. When she got to see

the wheelchair close up she exclaimed 'what are you going to do with these bones'? With his head bowed in despondency, he explained that he was in desperation to have a wheelchair for his daughter. This is now a story of joy and hope (Isaiah 63v3). This is God at work! Through your generosity to Somos Nós, Ana and hundreds like her receive wheelchairs or other mobility aids in Jesus' Name. 'Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and He will repay for his deed.' Proverbs 19v17.

Joy of Generosity

Thank you for supporting our Joy of Generosity appeal over the past year. Praise God, we reached our £30,000 target by mid-September. We are excited to announce another campaign for Somos Nós to raise £40,000 over the coming months. Two partners are teaming up with our Charity Shops to double all donations from new donors and ALL increased giving from existing donors up to our £40K target. In this way, a gift of £100 would become £200 and if you are eligible for Gift Aid, your donation of £100 would become £250! Together, we can continue to make a great impact in Mozambique for the Kingdom! You can give by cheque, by standing order using the ref SOMOS NÓS or at <https://www.onemissionsociety.org.uk/somosnos>



The Michels

Serving God & the Haitian people through 4VEH

Bonjou, Hello!**HAITI**
Winter 2024**Pioneer media ministry 4VEH celebrates 75 years of ministry in 2025!**

As we prepare celebrations for next year's 75th Anniversary, we're in awe of all who have gone before us in faithful service to God. To all who have prayed - and are still praying - thank you!

Did you know King George VI was on the throne in the UK when 4VEH broadcast its first radio programme from Cap-Haitien, Haiti, in 1950. That's a long time ago!



In those early years, letters poured in from many parts of the world - all over the West Indies, Central and South American countries including Colombia, Venezuela, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, the United States, Europe, Australia and New Zealand, thanking God for 4VEH and the message of hope it was bringing.

Perhaps the believers who first told you about Jesus were among 4VEH's listeners?!

When God gave 4VEH Founder Rev G.T. Bustin, a preacher from Mississippi, USA, a burden for starting a Gospel Radio Station in Haiti, people thought he was crazy. He responded: "I know nothing about radio and I do not know how we will carry on, but I know that God is leading, and He will surely provide."



God did provide—and is still providing and blessing!
As listener Soeurette says:

"We can never say thank you enough for the blessing 4VEH brings to our home every day. This blessing doesn't have a price tag ... this is a life-saving radio!"

Praises & Prayer Requests:

- Protection, provision, perseverance for 4VEH staff and families in all the difficulties. Thank God 4VEH is on the air every day to encourage people, share the Gospel and teach life skills.



- With Hannah now at Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana, it's extra sweet when we're all together again! She's adjusting well to college life and all the opportunities, including playing women's rugby. We're adjusting too, and have been known to drive three hours there and back in one day to visit her! Esther is in her junior (last-but-one) year of high school, and has started her college search. Please pray for both girls, for good friends, a strong faith community around them and God's help as they navigate all that life throws at them.
- Storly has started a Bible study in Haitian Creole for the growing number of Haitians who now live here in Columbus, Indiana. Please pray for this new ministry!

Kate's November Haiti trip

By the time you read this, Lord willing, Kate and videographer Isaac, along with OMS missionaries Dave and Michael, and church friend Jeff will be back from a trip to Cap-Haitien. Kate and Isaac will focus on filming testimonies and stories of impact. Please pray for a productive trip and for God's help in producing videos and stories that will help people connect with what God is doing in Haiti through 4VEH.

With thanks!

As you pray, financially support and encourage us in our roles at 4VEH, you're reaching, teaching and serving Haiti's people—thank you so much!

With our best wishes for a joy-filled Christmas and happy New Year!

*God bless!
Storly, Kate, Hannah & Esther*

We serve as full-time missionaries with One Mission Society, seconded to 4VEH. Our ministry with 4VEH is made possible through our missionary support team, as people pray and give monthly, we are able to cover the cost of our salaries, travel and other ministry expenses. If your family, Sunday School or church is looking to increase your missions support, please contact One Mission Society Office to get set up. Thanks so much!

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**As well as this mailed prayer
letter, we send out email updates
every few weeks. Visit our blog
to sign up/update your email
address/preferences.**

Kate also shares updates on
Facebook.
Find as Kate Scannell-Michel

Montgomery News!



*John, Jo,
Andrew,
Samuel, Sarah
& Joshua*



We have lots to praise God for since we last wrote. We also pray you'll be encouraged by what God is doing.

- Two new kids from the estate have started coming along to the Kids' Club in our home. It was lovely to have one of the boys ask Jo more questions after the Bible time recently, about how Jesus could be God and become a baby. He was thinking things through! Praise God. For both clubs at the minute, we are going through the alphabet, taking each letter to teach a truth about Jesus - 'Jesus is...'
- We also have some new kids coming along to Friday Club. Two of these are from a Syrian family. The mum waits while her boys attend the club. When the kids came into the hall for the Bible lesson, a couple of weeks ago, the two boys sat at the back of the hall away from the others. When John encouraged them up, they said they were of a different religion, but when John reassured them they could join with the others to listen, they did. Please pray the truth of Jesus and the Gospel will break through.
- In our last letter we shared about the 18-year-old man, who John has been doing the Christianity Explored course with. Over the past few weeks, it's clear that he is now trusting the Lord for salvation, and we praise God for the fruit that is already so evident in his life. He is witnessing to family and friends, who see the difference in his life, but they don't always like it! He comes to the Bible Study group on a Tuesday and is eager to learn. Please pray for his growth as a very young Christian and for the Lord's protection upon him.
- Following on from the plans mentioned previously, to encourage others' involvement in serving and reaching out, we have started 'Equipping Hour'. This is once a month, for an hour after the church service. At the time of writing, we have had our first one and it was such an encouragement to see about 16 gathered together to learn, as John guided us through an overview of the big picture of the Bible and how it all fits together. One of those attending, was a man we

asked prayer for a while ago. He had come to church with his wife, but stopped, and we were told didn't even want her to speak to him about Jesus in the home. He then started coming to church again, with his Bible open during the sermon, and attentive. He was one of the group who stayed behind for the hour after the service to learn more about the Bible. Please pray on for him. The Lord knows where he's at in his relationship with Him.

- We were really pleased that one of Samuel's friends came to the youth group, 'Salt'. His younger sister is friends with Joshua and loves coming to Friday Club with him. Other friends, who Andrew and Sarah had invited to the youth group, either 'couldn't,' 'didn't want to' or 'weren't allowed to' go! Please pray this would change and also that the Lord would help our kids stand strong for Jesus among their friends.
- As well as meeting with the community group on a Monday, John now also volunteers as a leader in 'Foreige', the local youth club, on Friday evenings, which Sarah and her friends also attend. Jo continues to be involved in the badminton club on a Wednesday evening and meet up with mums/neighbours for chat over a cuppa. Continue to pray for fruitful relationships leading to Gospel conversations. Pray too for Andrew, Samuel, Sarah and Joshua, in the various activities they are involved in; that they too would be bright witnesses for Jesus.
- Family news: Andrew has passed his theory test and is now officially learning to drive!! He has settled back into school and continues to get some work with the firm he was with over the summer. We're thankful that Sarah has settled well into secondary school and they are all enjoying their friends and activities.



THANK YOU

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If you would like to partner with us prayerfully or financially, please contact us or the OMS Office.
 Tel. 028 9065 2040
www.onemissionsociety.org.uk

Morton Family

Prayer Letter

WINTER 2024



Dear Friends,

My (Jonathan's) mum passed away a few weeks ago. As a family we attended the celebration of life service and funeral in Ireland. Deep sadness and deep joy walked hand in hand. Many spoke in the public worship service about her integrity, focus and loyalty. Above all, people remembered her faith – deep, simple and lived day to day. They shared about her ministry of teaching, her Bible in hand and words of profound Christ-centred simplicity shared to all. Words of eternal hope that were Christ focused. We were so humbled and honored to be present, and praise God for a faith tested and a life well lived. Mum left a Christ-centred legacy to family, friends and all who knew her. As we approach the Christmas season, it gives me joy to have the certainty in Christ of not only seeing Mum again, but having infinite time to get to know her better. We celebrate this reality and hope in Christ this Christmas! Christ's birth, life, death and resurrection transforms everything – who we are, how we see the world and others. It must change our priorities, actions and gives us an eternal view within a finite world.

We are deeply blessed as we reflect on what God has done over the last year through Red Nueva Vida (RNV). We have seen work begin in Ecuador, with dozens of people already involved in discipleship, and churches beginning to become established and grow. In the Dominican Republic new churches are being formed. We are so encouraged to see many young people coming to know the hope of Christ and being formed as disciples. They, in turn, will be used by God to touch and transform the lives of their generation.

In Colombia, growth in discipleship, new churches and leadership training is evident throughout the country. This December, another 18 people will graduate from the RNV Institute one-year training on how to plant a new multiplying church through reproducing disciples.

*Glory
to God on the
highest*
Luke 2:14

I recently watched a video from Guatemala that brought tears to my eyes, tears of thanks and joy, anticipating what God would do. Pastor Carlos had trained a mission outreach team of disciples and they were on their way to the Esperanza area of Guatemala. A rural area, many hours away, the team were travelling standing up on the back of a pickup truck. They were thanking God for the privilege of being sent, eager to share how the Spirit had changed their lives, family and community. They prayed for hearts ready to listen. One month on, and discipleship of new believers in Esperanza has now begun and a church family is being formed. The Spirit transforms, our hope is in Christ alone. We look forward to next year, as we follow the Spirit's leading into Honduras and Peru.

As a family, we deeply appreciate your prayer and partnership this year. Daniel has now finished his outdoor soccer season as captain of his school team. They won two separate trophies this year, which was so exciting, and his indoor season has now started. Noah continues to love all to do with nature. He is fascinated with trees and loves finding saplings and cultivating them, as well as buying and planting larger trees. We are running out of space for any more! Lupita and I feel so blessed with family and ministry. We often remember you in prayer. We give thanks for the life mum lived and the example she left. We praise



God for the message of hope in Christ, that we live every day but celebrate especially at Christmas. We are invigorated to share that hope with others, so disciples are reproduced, churches are multiplied and used to transform community, and servant leaders training others in the glory of Christ. Thank you for being part of the journey with us. We wish you a peaceful, joyful Christmas and a most blessed 2025.

Jonathan, Lupita, Daniel and Noah

MERRY
Christmas

POLLOCK POST



Calvary Church
LOUGHREA

CHURCH PLANTING IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

ONE MISSION
OMS - ONE MISSION SOCIETY

Equipping



A couple of months ago we started a monthly equipping night at church, as a few of our church family were asking lots of questions. We are in quite an interesting season as a church, but quite an exciting one as a lot of our congregation are new Christians.

This has developed a real hunger in our church to know more about God, and how following Jesus impacts all of our lives.

We spend a lot of time discipling people on how they can be a witness for Christ in their work, school, family and community. We also seek to help people understand that, as Christians, they are part of a long history of people who have gone before them, and had to figure out the same truths as they do. The first couple of Equip nights we have had focused on the history of the church, and particularly how the church through history has come to believe what we believe, and how this has meant that we have been not only been on the fringes of society, but also faced persecution at times. It was so interesting to discuss this with everyone, and particularly those who have come from different parts of the world, and their experience of Christianity in their country. We have also had quite a few people attending who aren't yet part of our church, and some who currently don't follow Christ.

What was so key for us to see, and to experience through the people in our church, was how what we base our faith on must be found in the word of God. Many of our church have backgrounds in different cultures, and in some cases different religions, but one thing remains true for us and important to share with them; our understanding of God must come from His word. It is so refreshing for us to see the desire that is growing to know God through His word in our church. From daily Bible reading, to Bible studies, and parents reading the Bible with children, this has grown in the past 6 months to show some really amazing fruit.

Our prayer is that this desire will continue to grow for our church in 2025. Last Sunday evening, we asked people what they wanted to study in the new year, and we have some great upcoming discussions from how to share our faith and our lives with people, the history of the Bible, and how we can learn to grow in prayer. We give God glory for what He is doing in our church, and pray that we will see Him move in the lives of many in Loughrea in the coming year.

Prayer Points...

- Pray for some rest over the Christmas holidays. This has been a long year and we look forward to the break.
- Pray the boys as 2025 is an important year for them in their schooling.
- Pray for Julie as she works in the health service, and for the opportunities she has with her colleagues.
- Pray for our new people at church, that we would see Gospel growth in them.
- Pray for Alastair and Elise and their family as they continue in their work here.
- Pray for God to save people in our local community.

Contact us...

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If you would like more information about us, or any aspect about our ministry, or if you would like to support us financially, please contact us and we would be delighted to speak to you.

Snippets

We have had a couple of big moments as a family with Ben turning 16, and passing all of his Junior Cert exams. It's hard to believe we now have a 16 year old who will be driving soon! Pray that he continues to grow in his faith and serving in the church.

Joshua has a big year of sport ahead as he is headed into his Feile year. This is a 'coming of age' of young men, and a lot of sports have festival tournaments planned next spring to celebrate this. They are huge local events and he will be taking part in a few different sports, meaning a lot of training. Pray for wisdom and rest for Josh as he balances all of this.

Caleb is still loving school, but this year has been a big step up in work. He is just now getting on top of things, but is persevering really well with the increase in homework. What's wonderful is that his new teacher really sees how hard he is trying, and also how he is quick to help other people in the class. Pray that Caleb continues to be a good example for Jesus in his school.

Women's Conference

A couple of weeks ago, Julie took ten women from church across to the Dublin Women's Conference to spend the day learning about the Bible and enjoying fellowship. It was an amazing day, but also an encouraging one as some of the ladies had never been in a gathering of that size with people who knew and loved Jesus!



Jonny, Julie, Benjamin, Joshua & Caleb



The Reid - ings

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new.

2nd Cor 5:7

Greetings from a windy Tullyroan. As a family, these past months have been challenging in different areas of our lives, but the Lord has always been patient and faithful, reminding us that "the old things have passed away" and creating new ways and new opportunities for the four of us to grow.

One of the challenges has been to establish the way ahead for Darina and Liam's education. In both their cases there are very long stories, with many turning points and frustrating days. After many phone calls and different appointments, Darina is excited and enjoying a training programme. Her week is busy with academics, projects, and a hospitality course, which is good for us as we get lots of goodies home to enjoy! Also, she has started an art and design class, as part of her job placement. She is also making lots of new friends and even witnessing to her taxi driver. God has given her a good place to keep on developing.

Liam's case has been full of changes. It has been frustrating, as we explained his situation as a homeschooler many times and it seemed that there wasn't an opportunity for him anywhere, until we found a Christian School where he can sit his GCSE exams. Finally, he is doing a combination, of homeschool for two GCSE's and night classes for three GCSE's. At the time of writing this

letter, we are still waiting for answers about two more GCSEs. As Brenda says, "We are getting there, wherever there is"! Meanwhile, he is still involved in Coffee Connect and the Argory.

Darina and Liam's education was "the straw that broke the camel's back" and Brenda could not keep going on as usual anymore. Since we came back from Mexico, life has been so busy that she hadn't enough time to process all the changes, decisions and consequences that we have faced. She became unwell and had to step back from ministry with OMS, to have time to deal with all the family challenges, but also time to grieve, rest, recharge and refocus on God. We are grateful for all the support from our OMS team.

Leslie continues to be busy. Praise the Lord, he was able to be at New Horizon and at Bangor Worldwide Missions Conference; great opportunities to share about OMS. We are grateful for church meetings, where he has been invited to share about OMS, and for OMS prayer meetings. Recently, he has been able to help set up a Prayer Group in Newtownabbey with a lady from Turkey! God is opening homes to pray for what He is doing around the world!!! Also, he is still involved in the Lisburn Shop, where he keeps up the conversations with regular customers.





We are grateful for:

- The Lord's guidance with Darina & Liam's education.
- Darina's sharing her faith.
- A new prayer meeting that has started in Newtownabbey.
- Family health.
- For the ministry in Manos de Vida in Mexico.

Join us in prayer for:

- The finishing steps on Liam's GCSE's studies.
- Brenda to get better emotionally.
- Health & strength over the winter months, and that Leslie and Darina's asthma will be under control.
- More opportunities to share about the work of OMS in churches, halls, etc.
- For the leadership in MdV and their ministry.



We are grateful that in Mexico the Manos de Vida ministry is growing! They have started meetings on Sundays and some of our friends are attending. Angelica, one of our closest Christian friends, is involved in leadership! And Mari got baptised this autumn. We keep on praying for the team there, especially Manuel and Kollette; that the Lord will guide and sustain the ministry in MdV.



2024 has been filled with different classes and activities, which created opportunities for staff, volunteers and the kids to enjoy and treasure memories of daily life in the "Hope Houses". Through your prayers, support and love, the children are empowered to dream, and to create life brimming with possibilities. Thank you so much for investing in the lives of our children!!!!



"Hope House" is a Colombian non-profit organisation based on Christian principals and values to create an environment in which children and adolescents find an opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive.



It brings immense joy to announce that one of our young individuals has chosen to take a new step in his faith and walk in the footsteps of Christ. Witnessing his unwavering commitment and wholehearted dedication is truly a cause for jubilation. It is a privilege to walk alongside him on this meaningful path!

As we plan for next year, your prayers are appreciated for those kids who will be part of the "Hogar Esperanza". God knows who they are, where they are and their needs. Pray for God to guide us to them. Thank you again for all your support. Luz Maria, Hogar Esperanza

As we finish 2024, we want to thank you for all your prayers and support; you are in ours. We pray that as a new creation in Christ, all things from 2024 have passed away, and that in 2025 all things will become new in Him. We pray that His love and wisdom will guide you also next year. Have a joyful Christmas & New Year in 2025!

Leslie, Brenda, Darina & Liam

Keep in touch:

Leslie: lreid@onemissionsociety.org.uk
Brenda: breid@onemissionsociety.org.uk

Tel. 07534662163
Tel. 07759015823

Dear Friend,

Thank you for all your precious prayers as we continue to adapt to our new life in the UK. Any challenges that we are experiencing are nothing compared to the chaos and suffering of those surrounded by war in Ukraine and the Middle East. Please pray for OMS missionaries and many local ministry partners there, who are sacrificially following Jesus and ministering His light in unstable situations.



The Lord blessed Philip with safe travel to Colombia in August. It was an honour to spend time with gifted leaders from several countries in Latin America who train students for ministry, which may bring them against all kinds of challenges. There were heart-breaking conversations about leading and teaching in the midst of food shortages, drought, political

chaos, danger and gang violence. We were moved by our responsibility to pray for our brothers and sisters, who are running ministry training in Latin America. Would you join us in prayer for them? The team Philip leads is committed to regularly communicating with them, in order to hear their needs and pray for them, as well as supporting in leadership and teaching.

Caroline Abbo faithfully coordinates the Esther Project in Uganda. We pray carefully about when to train others to lead, and when to say, 'yes' or 'no' to starting new groups. When a secondary school invited her to offer a group for older girls and do some training with teachers, she felt excitement that this was Jesus' leading. The first day she was astonished to find a huge number of young women, hungry to connect Bible studies with what was going on in their lives.

Caroline had to pray for ways to help girls to understand that God sees them personally in such a large group. He led her to give them the opportunity to write down, anonymously, any struggles or challenges in their lives. The Father of compassion moved her to tears, as she unfolded the papers to see into many disturbing experiences and vulnerable living situations. We cried out to Him as the mighty defender of the oppressed and the healer for the girls, and prayed for wisdom for Caroline and the school in how to help the traumatised and those in unsafe situations.



Jesus knows their deepest wounds and greatest needs, so the Esther Project is about making a safe, loving community around the truth of God's word; a place where they can talk openly and pray authentically. The Holy Spirit is working through Caroline to do exactly that with many young women. Please pray that the Lord of heaven's armies will continue to fight for young women around the world to receive His truth and be healed in His love.



Thanks to being near family in England, we had a special time celebrating Fiona's mum, who turned 80 in August (yes, that is my sister and yes, I look exactly like my mum!).

Jesus is working through your prayers for us settling here! He opened the way for Bethany to live in Manchester and she is loving the city and her flatmate. OMS UK people

sometimes meet in Manchester, so we are thankful for the unexpected blessing of being able to connect regularly with our new team, near Bethany. She needs your prayers as she makes friends, continues learning to balance studying a degree online and working, and is struggling with severe colds in the new British germ pool.

During a wedding anniversary trip to Scotland in September, we enjoyed a rich time, hosted by our friends Bill Anderson, who chairs the OMS global board, and his lovely wife, Lillias. It helped us connect our two worlds, as we continue to slowly get our heads around being part of OMS Global while living here in the UK.



In October, Jasmine (far right) returned from learning Spanish in sunny Spain. She had two weeks in grey England before embarking on a new life in Colombia to work in a private bilingual school for kids of all ages, up to 18. The photo cannot adequately portray the rare treasure of all four of us together! It is a big adventure with lots of cross-cultural challenges, but she wants to build on her training in teaching English, as well as continuing to improve her Spanish. Pray with us, that God will protect Jasmine and help her grow.

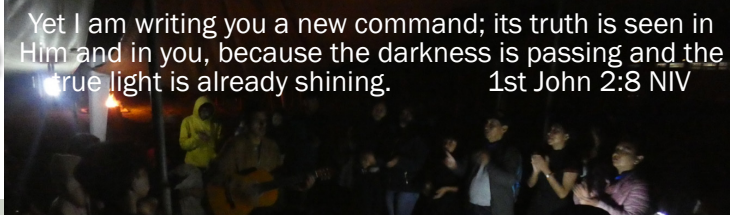
Please pray for:

- Ministry training partners in Latin America, continuing to lead and teach, to raise up pastors amidst huge challenges and instability.
- The Holy Spirit to work through Caroline with young women in Uganda. Pray Jesus will raise up more leaders like her for the Esther Project, who will be ready to pray for girls' real struggles and carry God's love to them.
- Jesus to lead Fiona in the Esther Project; for the logistics of coordinating from England and raising up more prayer in the UK. Pray for the Holy Spirit to direct the next steps of making the new version of the Bible study and life questions available to download online for young women around the world.
- New opportunities in England for Philip to connect ministry students with God's vision and possibilities in world mission. Pray for wisdom in new routines as he leads the global Theological Education team from UK.
- Bethany and Jasmine in their new challenges in Manchester and Colombia. Pray that God will guide them and keep them in His protection.

Thank you for all your prayers and support!

Lots of love, Philip and Fiona xxx

Loja Update
Winter 2024



Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining. 1st John 2:8 NIV

This Issue:

BCCC registered as a charity-1
BCCC Anniversary.-2
BCCC Building lot update -2

Praise Points:

For regular gifts keeping our Support Account healthy.

BCCC was granted recognition as a religious charity. We await the BCCC Committee's registration to complete the final stage.

Vicky Ramiro's wife, is back to work and getting back to normal.

Since we have had some rain, the rolling power cuts have reduced from 14 hours a day to 6 hours.

Norma restarted the Friday Club for kids in October.

Dear Team Member,

We trust you are well, we are keeping well. Although Nube has had some problems, she finds with more rest she can manage, but values your continued prayers. Ecuador has been facing the difficulties of wildfires and an ongoing drought. This has affected hydroelectric generation and food production and resulted in rolling power cuts of up to 15 hours per day. This has led to reduced work hours and cost some their jobs. Thankfully recently there has been rain recently which generated more power. Despite all this we have exciting news to share with you.

Biblical Christian-Community Church BCCC is a registered Charity!

We praise God for the miracle He did for the BCC Church to be granted charity status as a religious organisation on the 20th September. The first miracle was that after one year of initiating the process, Mark was called early in September to Quito to revise the church constitution by-laws and was well attended by the Legal Advisor in the Secretariat for Religious Affairs, who made many corrections and required further detail so that the constitution document is in line with the Ecuadorian Constitution, Legislation, the Freedom of Religion Law and general legalities. After a number of revisions, it was ready to be presented to the Secretary and the legal charity status, (& juridical person) was granted. Mark returned to Quito when the legalised copies were ready in October.



13th Anniversary of BCC Church of Loja

OMS earnestly seeks to mobilise at least 125 new missionaries by our 125th anniversary, in the summer of 2026. PRAY with us as the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. JOIN us in fulfilling the Great Commission.

No Field postal service Address for personal gifts & communication: 10 Parkmount Road, NEWTOWNABBEY, BT36 4QQ, U.K.

Home Ecuador Tel: +593 7 2107915
Mark Mob/WhatsApp +593 99 311 5063
Nube Mob/WhatsApp +593 98 292 8708
mark.vogan@gmail.com
mvogan@onemissionsociety.org

By this time there were rolling power cuts of 12 hours per day, so the first members' meeting on 18th October, was held in darkness by the light of two camping lamps, which have proven useful at home and for meetings; like the youth sing-song photo at the start of this letter. We praise God enough members came, undeterred by the darkness, to hold the meeting.



Alicia's Food Stand, a BCCC member, has benefited from the Seed Fund and training.



Anniversary Lunch in the lot BCCC would like to buy, a further £3400 is needed.

BCCC's 13th Anniversary

The Anniversary Celebration was particularly joyful as we gave thanks to God not just for the 13 years of His blessings, the

Ebenezer title was very apt, *'until now the Lord has helped us'* and because news that the charity legal status had been granted.

Building Lot The BCC Church has decided they would like to buy the lot next door which is for sale and we have been allowed to use temporarily for sports ministry (and the Anniversary Lunch). The owners urgently want to sell it but have been patiently waiting for the church to be recognised, which it now is. The church has been setting aside part of the budget each year and currently still needs £3400 more, just 5% of the \$74000, for the purchase, UK project ECCBF. A big THANK YOU to all who have given and for future gifts for the construction of this Training and Worship Centre.

Team Talk Happy Christmas & New Year's blessings We appreciate you in this team as a sender. Your prayers and support are both needed to reach the marginal areas of Loja City and disciple and train the believers.



A fellowship meal with some of the BCC church leaders.

the Vegans

Prayer Requests:

Timothy & Debbie in their final years of university.

For the training planned in 22-29th September with Javier of Voz y Manos Foundation to have fruit in the BCC Church members lives and service.

For lasting peace in Ecuador; an end to gang violence, drugs and extortion.

Pray for BCCC lay leaders balancing family needs, work and ministry.

Deeper commitment to God and personal holiness of believers and future leaders.

For BCC Church's Committee Registration.

Funds to buy the site and build the Training Centre and Meeting place that God directs us to.

For the Gospel to take hold in the hearts of Children, youth and their Families in Loja, Pedernales (Azuay) and Los Encuentros (Zamora).

For new believers in Nube's family who are interested in baptism and proclaiming their faith publicly.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN!

It has been an amazing few months since we last communicated with you. Debbie and I are delighted at your prayer support as we travel through the North of England conducting services. Many churches we visit have never heard of OMS, so it's back to basics. We don't see this as a problem but rather an opportunity. Indeed, just this morning, I was reminded that we are not living in a post-Christian country but a pre-revival country! Representing the Mission at the Keswick Convention and the 'Awaken' Bible week on the Lincoln Showground was an immense pleasure.



Debbie and I recently returned from Mozambique, where we worked with people living with disability. We were privileged to lead a genuinely amazing team. I would not be surprised if all involved returned to the mission field, as the Lord would call them. It was an honour to serve with them.

Prayer works in any language!!

We have been working closely with Pastor Tommy Hui, who ministers at the Rock Gate church in Leeds, now home to a thriving community of Cantonese speakers, with the potential of a new church plant in the city of Wakefield. Please pray for these ministries and the opportunity for the OMS-related church in London to send a church planting team to Leeds to minister to the Columbian, Spanish-speaking community, which is the most significant outside of London.

We have also met with a couple who are Hong Kong nationals and have pastored churches in Hong Kong, Canada and Belfast. Working with their home church leaders, we are trusting the Lord for some exciting OMS-related work coming to Blackpool. Stay tuned for more updates on this initiative.

As a couple, we are attending a new Presbyterian church plant in north-west Preston. Since commencing in June, we have 30 people in regular attendance and the church is still growing, with new families joining us almost every week.



Pray, too, that we may have the privilege of seeing individuals from Kenya, churches in England join the 2025 OMS teams to Kenya, Hungary, Mozambique and Sicily. Please contact the One Mission Office in Belfast or call me directly for further details. Debbie and I were in Lincoln, meeting with ministers in late October, and we will minister in nine churches in the north of England up to Christmas.

We pray that the Lord will bless you this Christmas and we look forward to working with you in the year to come.

Yours in His Grip,

Stephen & Debbie Scholes

07855361959
sscholes@onemissionsociety.org.uk



To God be the glory... We give God glory and praise for you and your faithful prayers. Your support for us over these past three decades has been, and continues to be, a fabulous encouragement. We are incredibly grateful to have shared these years with you.

We specifically thank you for your prayers during these recent months regarding Carl's trips to England; the passing of his Dad and Carl's ongoing responsibilities for his Mum. Thankfully, Carl's Mum has adjusted well at the care home where she is receiving good care; she and Carl chat every day!

To God be the glory... We give God glory and praise for all He has done through OMS this past year as a result of your faithful prayers and support:

- OMS-related ministries continue to be carried out by 1,732 cross-cultural workers and national workers in at least 52 languages in 81 nations around the world.
- Billion.Global, a ministry of OMS, and a coalition with just over 208 partners, continues to 'fight the good fight of faith'! They've given more than 800 million people the opportunity to hear, understand and respond to the Gospel to date. Please continue to keep this outreach in your prayers; the goal is 1 billion people by 2026 by God's power, grace and for His glory alone.
- OMS Global has been blessed with 64 new missionaries! We 'believe to see' OMS reaching our goal that God will raise up 125 new missionaries by 2026 when OMS celebrates its 125th Anniversary.

Carl would appreciate your prayers for him and the Mobilization/HR team as they shepherd enquiries, applicants and candidates through the onboarding process. We're grateful for the recent CROSS training event with 12 candidates. Would you commit to praying regularly for many more new workers in this coming year?

We state with Paul, from Ephesians chapter 1:16 &17 that... *We have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in our prayers. We keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.*

We also pray that you have experienced God's faithfulness this past year and that He has given you many good things for which to praise Him. May you have a blessed 2025 and...

Carl and Heidi Walton,
651 Brookview Dr, Greenwood,
Indiana 46142, USA
hwalton@onemissionsociety.org
+001-317-865-1222

We pray you will have a **Happy Christmas!!**
With our love and prayers,
Carl and Heidi

Update on Ecuador

Julia Henry Winter 2024

Dear Friends,

I do hope this finds you well. Drop me an email to let me know how you are keeping or pop over for coffee if you are nearby.

As I begin to write a winter prayer update, it's dark outside, the falling leaves have changed colour whilst the rain and wind make a playful melodic sound. Inside there is light, heat and safety. Meanwhile, in Ecuador underlying the sunnier weather, there remains much physical darkness with constant power cuts and water shortages. Friends there tell me of businesses closing down, educational institutions being forced to remain online due to safety and people unable to attend church. Kidnapping, extortion and crime continues in this dark spiritual environment. Two distinct places and situations, yet our Lord remains the same and He reigns! Would you please uphold Ecuador before our Lord in prayer?

Pray that the church there would be a light in the darkness sharing the hope we have in Him. Pray that they would be strong, full of integrity and bold in sharing His Word with others. Pray that we would see more national leaders raised up and walking in the authority that God has given them in Him.

Many thanks for being a part of the team there.

Love, Julia

juliahenry18@hotmail.com

**“For I, the Lord, do
not change.”
Malachi 3:6**

Northern Lights



Points for prayer:

- Pray for fruit from the Latin American summit for mission mobilisation that was held online in November; that we would see people equipped to send others from South America as missionaries.
- Pray for a woman in the jungle of Ecuador who has asked for prayer. She said she had become cold in her walk with the Lord, doesn't have purpose or reason in her life and doesn't believe that God is with her. She desires to walk closely with Him once again.
- Praise God for the opportunity to study more. Pray that I would be able to use this to help others in the future.
- Pray for me throughout this time of change and waiting; for new opportunities and discernment as to what to do next.



Blessings in Bournemouth



After Easter, we started a worship service for Hong Kong people. This was a trial run and we had two families joining us. We plan to have a kids friendly worship twice a month. That is in the first part of worship, everyone joins together singing songs. Then we have a Bible story for the kids, as an interactive mode of reading the Bible. While KK will go on with the sermon for the adults, after the Bible story, Kay leads them playing games and doing some crafts. After the service is over we all get together and have a simple lunch. Eating and chatting is really important for Hong Kong people. Afterwards we have fellowship and we continue to study the Scripture from the day's sermon, sharing more deeply and praying for each other.



As well as the regular worship services, we also organise special seasonal events. In September, we held a mid-autumn festival event for Hong Kong families. For that festival we had games, we made food and did crafts. We had Chinese families who came to join us and it was marvellous.

Last year was the first time we held this festival event, at that stage we had only had ourselves and one volunteer helping. This year we have two families helping. We are so thankful and amazed at what God has done for us in just the space of a year. He has brought two families to us; not only joining our worship but also very willing to help us to reach out for the other Hong Kong people.

Following this event, we are getting to know more families and we are considering that it may be a good opportunity for us to develop a new kids programme on Sunday afternoons. We are planning a programme with games and Bible memorisation, and which will also focus on learning Chinese words.

KK is organising a men's group in the November. Pray that he can gather those men to get to know Jesus. KK will go on with the sermon for the adults, while Kay tells a Bible story to the children, plays games and organises crafts with them.

Letter from the Board Chairman

Dear Supporter,

As board chairman of OMS UK, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your invaluable prayerful and financial support. This is vital to the work of OMS, as we seek together to reach a lost world with the Gospel; from Mozambique to Ecuador and Ireland to the South Pacific, the Gospel is being declared and displayed to lost souls. This is the very heart of OMS' ongoing mission.

As trustees of the charity, we seek to support the Executive Director and act to ensure that the charity prioritises our objectives and operates to the highest standards. We are actively seeking to recruit new trustees who share our heart for the Great Commission. We are looking for people with Christian maturity, missionary passion, leadership and management experience to serve on the board. Ordinarily, our board meetings are quarterly, either on Zoom or face-to-face in Belfast.

This is a crucial need for new trustees, so am asking you to prayerfully consider if there is someone you could nominate or put your own name forward. Please write to myself at banderson@onemissionsociety.org or the Executive Director, Melvin Kelly at mkelly@onemissionsociety.org.uk to find out more or discuss the matter further. The selection process will involve submitting an up-to-date CV together with two references. We will consider candidates after Monday 13th January. I thank you for being a part of the OMS UK family and trust that you will know the Lord's leading about how to best steward what you have for His Kingdom.

I eagerly anticipate hearing from you.

Thanks,
Bill Anderson

CONNECT WITH US

Please update my details:

Name _____
Address _____

Postcode _____

email _____

Signature _____

I would like to receive: -

- prayer information from these missionary/ministry(s), via email
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.....
- details of an OMS prayer group near me
- more information about OMS.
- information about upcoming teams:
.....
.....
- Focus magazine by post

Consent Clause: In signing this document, you are agreeing that your information, provided in this document, will be held and used by OMS UK for the furtherance of its work in relation to your support for the charity and its missionaries. It will not be shared with a third party or shared with anyone else without your explicit permission. You can ask for a copy of your personal data at any stage and OMS, at your request, can delete your information from its databases.

Standing Order:

Name: _____
Address: _____

Pay to 'One Mission Society (OMS), Barclay's Bank PLC,
876 Stockport Road, Levenshulme, Manchester, M19 3BP
Account: 30677035 Sort Code: 20-26-20 the sum of £ _____
on d____/m____/yr_____ and on the same day each following
month/quarter/year (delete) and continuing until cancelled by me, to
support the work and ministry of _____



Give online via our website:
www.onemissionsociety.org.uk/give

Gift Aid Declaration:

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all my qualifying gifts of money made (circle all that apply)

Today In the last four years In the future

Signature _____ Date: d____/m____/yr_____

If giving by cheque please make this payable to One Mission Society (OMS) and mail to the UK Office.

Contributions to OMS are administered and disbursed under the supervision of the Board of Trustees. In the unlikely event that a ministry is over-funded or ceases, gifts may be used in another ministry.

Note: By completing this declaration, you confirm that you have paid or will pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax for each year (6th April – 5th April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities of CASC's that you donate to will reclaim in your gifts for that year. Please contact OMS if you change your name, address, or wish to cancel this declaration or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.



Explore

2025 TEAMS

Kangundo, KENYA



10th-22nd February 2025
Encourage the Kenyan Church
Community outreach
Prayer ministry
Discipleship

10th-21st July 2025
Residential English Camp
Build relationships
Share Gospel with students
Discipleship



Vac, HUNGARY

Maputo, MOZAMBIQUE



19th July-3rd August 2025
Share God's love with those marginalised
Use skills to support the Somos Nós team
Home visits and wheelchair distribution
Prayer ministry
Special events for those with disabilities

September 2025
One to one street evangelism
Prayer ministry
Encourage local team
Discipleship



Catania, SICILY

APPLY



INFO:



Contact us

E: opportunities@onemissionsociety.org.uk

WhatsApp: 0776 137 0250

T: 028 9065 2040

Did you know? Our Explore teams are not just for individuals, we also have opportunities for church groups to send out teams from their fellowship to experience mission first-hand. Please get in touch to find out more about how your church can explore their place in mission.



You can now follow One Mission Society on YouVersion. One of the plans that has been written by Philip Richardson entitled "Mission in Jesus' Parables of the Kingdom."

<https://www.youversion.com/the-bible-app/>

We are delighted to be able to share stories from missionaries with you to inspire you and encourage you to pray for the great need for many to be raised up to serve God at home and in the wider world. Follow us on Spotify!



Thank you for praying!

**Please join us for our
OMS Prayer Meeting via Zoom
4th Thursday each month
7.30pm**

(no meeting in December 2024)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83701059360>





ONE MISSION
OMS • ONE MISSION SOCIETY

Venues (kindly granted):

Northern Ireland

Saturday 22nd February
Union Road Presbyterian
Church, Magherafelt, BT45 5DF
10am-4pm
Including children's programme

England

Saturday, March 8th, 2025,
Bethel Church Liverpool,
82, Green Lane, Tuebrook,
Liverpool. L13 7EA
10am-3.30pm

Wales

Saturday, March 22nd 2025
Ebenezer Baptist Church,
Glanrafon Road, Mold CH7 1PA
8-9am Men's breakfast
10am - 3.30pm Conference

John 20:21

Jesus said to them again,
"Peace be with you. As the
Father has sent me, even so
I am sending you."



SENT
CONFERENCE 25

Registration is required at least one week before for catering and set up purposes.
Please register at <https://forms.office.com/e/c8QzURNUJ8>

Participants will have the opportunity to give a free-will offering on the day towards catering expenses and to support the work of OMS.