



In Touch

ACRE INTERNATIONAL

Acre Gospel Mission

Prayer Letter

November/December 2021

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Keith & Karen Lindsay

We are thankful to the Lord for many opportunities recently to present the work of the mission in various churches across Northern Ireland. Things are beginning to open up again. We have quite a number of meetings before Christmas and very much value your prayers for these including several outreach nights at various churches. We look forward to the Killyhevlin Autumn Break 15th – 18th November. The hotel is now fully booked. Please pray for blessing and protection for everyone who attends.

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel the Christmas Praise Night in Portadown on Saturday 27th November this year. However, we will be doing an online Christmas Praise Night instead with many of the mission family taking part. This will be on Monday 20th December at 8pm on Facebook live and also on YouTube on the Acre International channel. Please join us if you can.

Can we on behalf of the Acre Mission Family in Brazil, Portugal, Lanzarote and Northern Ireland, wish you a very Happy and Blessed



Christmas and New Year and thank you for all of your faithful support and prayers over the past year. We know for many of you this has been a difficult year and we assure you of our prayers and love.

Keith & Karen

Victor & Audrey Maxwell, *Mission President*

The Apostle Paul depended so much on the people who held the ropes as they lowered him over the walls of Damascus. Undoubtedly, he was forever grateful for their support at such a crucial time. We are also grateful and continue to be very encouraged by the present-day rope holders who stand by Acre International. God continues to bless the mission workers in their various fields of ministry. It is exciting to see how the church is being expanded in Brazil, how young people are being trained in Portugal and how He has sustained His servants in Lanzarote. Through these difficult times our workers also face great challenges, and we ask you to continue holding on to God for them.

Thank you for your fellowship in the Gospel.



Dr Bill Woods

Thank you for your continued prayers for Dr Bill. He continues to have chemotherapy every month and is doing well. Listen in to “MISSION MATTERS” on Monday 15th November at 8pm on the Acre International Facebook page or on Acre International YouTube channel to hear our recent interview with him in his home in Bangor. Not to be missed!!



Barry & Raquel Henry, *Portuguese Church, Vale Judeu, Portugal*



2021 is coming quickly to an end and much like 2020, we look back and thank God for His provision and His faithfulness. Restrictions have all but lifted in many areas, and in regard to church services, we have been allowed to resume without distancing regulations but maintaining the wearing of masks. We thank God that over the recent weeks we have received two new families into the community, and we pray that they will settle in quickly and consider the local church at Vale Judeu their home.

We thank God that our discipleship movement continues and that more people are seeking to walk one to one with others to mature and grow together. Continue to pray for guidance, protection and wisdom, for we know the battle we are in and know

that if discipleship is important to God, then it is also important for the enemy.

We were delighted to see 5 of our adolescents and 2 of our young adults show their desire to follow Jesus' command of being baptised. We have started baptism classes with them and pray as we go through the lessons that the Lord will confirm their desire before we decide on a date for the baptisms themselves.

Matt has started his second year at the Bible school and has been really enjoying the experience and we have noticed a big difference in him. He has been thinking about his future a lot and is seeking God's direction as he looks to his next steps on concluding his diploma at ITLC. Pray for him as he looks to the future and what God may be calling him into.

Dave has started at the Algarve University and is studying Management. It has been a big change for him and he is slowly getting into the rhythm of university life and studies. Becky continues at school and this year must decide in what area she would like to study for her last three years of high school.

On a family level, we thank God that the last document to begin the renovation work on our house has finally come through! Praise God for His care and faithfulness. Please continue to pray that we can get the process started quickly so that we can finally have a house to call our own.

On a positive note, it has been amazing to see the work that Raquel has been involved in growing over the last three years. God has been moving and the classes have opened up some amazing opportunities for the Gospel. One of Becky's friends started going to the classes, and since then she has been coming to the weekly afternoon services and the youth on a Friday. Pray for this girl (Madalena) as God works in her life and pray for more opportunities like these across the schools in Portugal.

As always, we thank the Lord for you and your prayers and support without which we would not be here. May the Lord continue to bless you for His glory and honour.



Aroldo & Emmanuelle Areas, *Evangelical Church in Santo Andre, Portugal*

Emmanuelle and I arrived here in this beautiful area of the Alentejo, that we now call home, 30 years ago. Our three children grew up here, studied here and our two boys even went to university here. The 3 of them are now all grown up and have a life of their own, but we are still here, continuing to serve our Majestic Lord in the place He chose for us.

In 2004, I became the Pastor of Santo Andre Church. This ministry has brought us many blessings, but also many challenges. At the minute, we have a good wee group of regular attenders made of church members but also regular comers, both saved and unsaved.

The lack of work opportunities for people here in our area can make our ministry more difficult. Even though the quality of life is great, without a decent job, people cannot stay and therefore they move to bigger cities. So many people pass by our wee town (and sometimes by our wee church), stay for a while, but eventually move on.

This situation might change as there has been some investment in our area, creating job opportunities for people. Sadly there is a serious lack of involvement and commitment amongst many of the church members. We rely on the help of very few people. The workload is therefore mostly on our shoulders preparing for and doing the mid-week meetings and Sunday service, counselling, visiting, driving needy people around, helping people with their shopping, filling in documents and cleaning the church. We are here to help anybody, and we do so with great pleasure, but it is becoming rather tiring... we are not that young anymore. Having said that, we thank the Lord for Marco, our Deacon, Daniela, his wife together with Rosalina who all lovingly help us as much as they can and always encourage and support us, as Philemon did (Philemon 7:21).

The Lord has also sent us many great blessings and encouragement. It is great to see Kezia (a lady who got saved during lockdown) growing in her faith. Filipa, saved only a few years ago, is also becoming a very strong and mature Christian. The Teens ministry gives Emmanuelle great opportunities to discuss God's word among teenagers who are very much involved in the world. Marisa, an unsaved lady, is very interested in knowing more about the Lord. Sofia, a young lady from Morocco, has become very friendly with Emmanuelle. She is searching for many religious answers and is open to deep discussion. And there are also the unsaved visitors, who are faithfully coming every Sunday. They don't ask many questions, and don't speak very much so we pray that the Lord's word they listen to each week will change their lives.

May the Lord continue to bless His work here and our ministries as we serve Him in our best possible ways. We thank you for your faithful prayers and support which we need so much.



MISSION MATTERS

Interviews with the missionaries: Third Monday each month at 8pm.
Acre International Facebook Page.



Glenn Bowden, International Evangelical Church Youth & ITLC, Algarve, Portugal

I'm so thankful that here in Portugal things are starting to get back to normal. Restrictions are starting to ease, and church is back to full capacity. Even though this hasn't been an easy time for anyone, it's amazing to see how God has been at work. An English man I met just a few months ago at the weekly bible study had been living in France and moved to Portugal. He had no interest in God or His word and through complete boredom picked up the bible and read it cover to cover. He realised his need of the Saviour and accepted Christ right there in his living room. He now attends the church.

Two weeks ago, we had our first church dinner since the pandemic started. It was an opportunity to get everyone back together for a social evening and also an opportunity for people to bring friends and family who otherwise wouldn't darken the door of a church.

College has started back with in person Lecturers rather than zoom which has been amazing. I love to see young adults getting excited by God's word and to see that worked out in their lives. This year we have 7 returning students and 4 new students. As the restrictions start to ease, we plan to have Bethlehem Village, mentoring programs, small groups, and bible studies that each of our students will be involved in. After Christmas our second-year students have placements in different ministries and organisations. Please pray as they get the practical opportunity to use their gifts, that it would both stretch and inspire them, and give them an even bigger heart for people and God's work.

The youth group has many more Portuguese young people attending. Numbers have been slower to come back after COVID, but the youth is growing and most weeks our youth are bringing their friends along each week and even to our church services, which has been exploding with young people and kids, especially with an influx of South Africans that have been emigrating to Portugal over the past year. We are also very excited to tell you that our camps are back on for the summer of 2022 God willing,

I thank God for all your encouragement and support. Please continue to pray for my mum as she hasn't been so well recently.



Jeffrey & Marianna Ferguson, Northern Ireland



Over the past few months, we have gradually moved from speaking at meetings online via zoom, to being back in person speaking at meetings, being able once again to meet people face to face and to share with them about the work of Acre. We have had the privilege to speak at church services, women's meetings, youth meetings, and also to travel across the border to a mission hall meeting in Co. Donegal. It is always nice to talk to people who have been supporting the work for many years, and also nice to introduce the work to some people for the first time. We have many more meetings booked for the next few weeks, some of which we will be introducing the mission to people for the first time. We look to God for more opportunities like this.

It was great to be a part of the Summer Outreach Team that went into the Co Down area in July. We were able to visit many homes with gospel literature, there were several good conversations around the doors, and we trust that as people received this literature into their homes, some would be challenged by it and would put their trust in Christ.

Marianna has been working lately on the 3rd edition of the Acre Kids magazine, which will be available alongside this magazine. These little kids magazines have been a real blessing, to both young

and old. There are a number of folk who have subscribed to receive the magazine, and many more copies have gone out to homes and churches. We were able to send a number of copies to a primary school teacher who plans to use it during her Religious Education class in the school. We trust that as the missionary story is read by children that it will inspire them and challenge them to think about what they want to be when they grow up, that even in their young age they would ask God to guide them as they grow up, and who knows, but some of these boys and girls may be the next missionary to head off to a needy place with the message of the gospel.

Revive, the young adults work within the mission started again in September after being suspended because of the pandemic. We were glad to welcome 40 young people to a barbecue for the first evening, and it was a time of reconnecting with some faces that we haven't seen for a while. In October, Marianna and I were interviewed, the theme being 'from the call to the field'. We shared with the young folk about how we came to be in the Lord's work, and some of the blessings and challenges we encountered during our time in Portugal, and now as missionary workers here in Northern Ireland.

The new Mid-Ulster prayer meeting resumed again for the Autumn/Winter season, and we are glad to have a number of folks who have been attending regularly since we started the meetings back in May. We are thankful for the use of a large hall in which we can safely meet and follow the social distancing guidelines. Normally, we meet on the last Tuesday night of the month, in Donaghuey Congregational Church Hall (kindly granted), at 8pm. If you are in the area would like to attend, please do join us, or contact the mission office for more details.

We do want to thank each one who has taken the time to pray for us, and we value your prayers as we go into this Autumn/Winter season of the work, that God would give us good health and protection in travel, and that many more doors of opportunity would be opened up to share about the work of the mission, and to share with people about the love of Jesus.



Richardo & Sandra, *Evangelical Church, Arrecife, Lanzarote*



We want to thank our Acre family for praying for the church in Lanzarote and for supporting us as mission workers.

We thank God that Covid infections in Lanzarote are at a very low level. The hospital no longer has patients with covid, and employment has recovered in a considerable and miraculous way. Most of the brothers and sisters in our church have returned to work. There are still 7 people needing a job and we pray that God will help them.

The services have been in the church for a few months now and are well attended. We also continue to offer Zoom and YouTube streaming for those who are unable to attend in person. We have once again carried out the program on the radio of Lanzarote, where we spread the gospel in this way to all who tune in.

The other ministries such as the youth meeting, women's meeting, children's Bible school, discipleship, prayer meeting by zoom, men's meeting, and Bible study are done on weekdays, leading to there being daily activities within the church.

The restrictions on evangelism for the outdoor children's meetings, visiting the jail, the hospital and old people home's unfortunately remain prohibited because of the pandemic, and so these aspects of the work have not been able to recommence.

We pray for a group of about 10 new people who have started attending the church. They are coming from various different countries such as Columbia, Cuba, Guinea and also Lanzarote. Some of them have accepted Christ and have asked for baptism.

We are praying that next year 2022, God willing, we can once again do the children's camp that we do with the help of the mission team from Northern Ireland.

We are preparing some activities for this Christmas and hoping once again to share the gospel in Lanzarote over this special season of the year.

Continue to pray for our daughter Andrea as she studies at the university of Tenerife. Pray for Yuliam, our oldest son, working and living in Germany. Likewise, we thank God for your prayers Daniel. He is doing well and continues to make a good recovery. Thank you Acre family for everything.



Please remember the Acre Zoom Prayer Meetings

First Monday of each month at 8pm

The codes are - Meeting ID: 4350810967 - Password: 150967



Mark & Judith Loney, *International Evangelical Church, Algarve, Portugal*



The months of September - October have felt like a return to normal times at IECA. Our only restrictions are now just the wearing of masks indoors and we are permitted to have 100% seating capacity inside the church building which is amazing. We have also been able to relay the service onto a large screen outside which many have appreciated. Many friends that we haven't seen in the Algarve for over two years are now beginning to filter back in and it has been great to renew fellowship with them.

We have now begun our Thursday Bible Studies which have been very well attended with the cafe to follow.

The Bible Garden continues to be a means of outreach as people bring their friends to see it and only a couple of weeks ago I had the joy of leading a lady to the Lord there.

It was a joy to welcome Matt and Kelsea Forman into the IECA team last Sunday

(missionaries from Greenland Baptist Church). Their ministry role at IECA is to develop the children's ministry within our fellowship and for Matt his role is also to manage the site, caring for the Garden and property as a whole. Kelsea hopes to start a Mums and Tots.

Our next big event at IECA is Bethlehem Village which we plan to host again after a two year break due to Covid. This is planned to take place from the 3-5th December. Please pray that many people will come and hear the true message of Christmas and that we don't lose the momentum after not being able to host the event for two years.

It has been a joy to welcome IECA's missionary Jill Kinsey back to Portugal after four years since her last visit. It is great to see Jill looking so well (79 years old) and we pray that her time in Portugal will be a great encouragement to her. We want to express our sincere thanks to all who continue to pray for and support the work of the International Evangelical Church of the Algarve.





Peter Moore, *Mission Media*

Since officially starting with Acre in September, I have been working with the other workers here at the home end producing some media content for our social media accounts, working on the Mission Matters broadcasts, and some video devotionals. Please tune in to the broadcasts subscribe to the Acre YouTube channel. It has been great getting to record some videos of the missionaries and hearing some of the old stories from the work of the mission and I know that the videos have been enjoyed by a great many people.



During the summer I got to be part of a small outreach team that visited some housing estates in Co. Down and a number of towns on the North Coast, delivering gospel literature. I was joined in doing this outreach at the North Coast with some friends who were greatly challenged by this work. They have since started delivering the same literature around their local areas which has been a great encouragement. One of the team members received some encouraging messages thanking the team for the literature and we just pray that many of those who receive the books will be blessed and challenged by them.

The Acre youth work Revive has started up again and we are back meeting on the 1st Saturday of each month. We started with a bbq in September and then in October, we had Jeff and Marianna speaking about what it has been like working as missionaries, sharing some of the challenges they faced but also the many blessings. We are hopeful that as this work continues, more young folk will hear about the work of Acre mission and that they would be challenged, and maybe one day they could become Acre missionaries themselves.

At the present I am preparing video presentations for the upcoming Autumn Break at the Killyhevlin. I am looking forward to spending time there and getting to know some more supporters of the mission. Hopefully I will be able to thank people in person for the kind words of support I have received since joining the mission in September.

New CD by
Keith and Karen Lindsay

Behold the Lamb
Keith & Karen Lindsay

Order by messaging
acregospelmission@hotmail.co.uk

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Christmas Praise Night



**ON 27TH NOVEMBER IN
PORTADOWN HAS BEEN
CANCELLED**

It will be moved ONLINE to
Monday 20th December 2021
at 8pm on Facebook Live and also
on the Acre International YouTube
channel at 8pm.

Please join us if you can.

*“A Light for
Your Way”*



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ACRE NEW YEAR CONFERENCE 2022

in
**MOIRA BAPTIST
CHURCH**

on
Saturday 15th January

at
10.30am

(No afternoon meeting)

All warmly welcome
COVID restrictions will apply

MY RESPONSE

- I would like to receive your monthly prayer letter / magazine
- I would like a gift aid form
- I have enclosed a gift of £..... to help present the Gospel message to the millions of people in Brazil, Portugal, Lanzarote and Northern Ireland.

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