

InTouch

MAGAZINE

Spring 2024



Acre
International

Dates for Your Diary



Zoom Prayer Meeting:

1st Monday of each month at 8pm via Zoom
Meeting ID: 435 081 0967
Code: 150967

2nd March: Revive (18-30s)

Connect Hall, Dromara

6th April: Revive (18-30s)

Connect Hall, Dromara

29th June: Acre BBQ

Faith Mission Centre, Portadown

Upcoming Mission Teams

Fatima, Portugal

Arrecife, Lanzarote

Coleraine, Northern Ireland

Why not consider signing up to our Praise & Prayer monthly newsletter for up to date news on our missionaries, current and retired.

Contact jeffrey@acregospelmission.org for more information.

Contact Details

Acre Gospel Mission

52A Halfpenny Gate Road, Moira, Co. Armagh, BT67 0HP

+44 7710 506939 +4428 9209 2039

NI Charity Number: NIC108390

If you would like to book us for a meeting please get in touch either by phone or by sending an email to office@acregospelmission.org

President's Thought for the day



Following the supernatural revival in Israel, the same prophet, now fearful of the threatening opposition, speedily fled the scene and ran until he collapsed, physically exhausted. Elijah was so spiritually spent and discouraged that he sat down under a Juniper tree and wished to die.

The prophet Elijah stands tall on the pages of the Old Testament. The dramatic episode on Mount Carmel of heavenly fire falling on the altar and consuming the sacrifice not only overthrew the prophets of Baal, it also ushered in a great spiritual revival in Israel. That incident was one of the highlights of Elijah's public ministry. However, a closer look at the prophet's life reveals something of his private and personal experiences.

Before the revival on Mount Carmel, this isolated prophet was confronted with immense challenges: the brook drying up, the barrel of oil being depleted in a widow's house and a boy's death with the despair of his heartbroken family.

By the strength of God, Elijah faced each challenge victoriously.

This incident reminds me that God's servants are only human. Besides all the physical demands of their work, they are frequently subject to oppressive spiritual forces. They engage in and are committed to exhausting programmes and vulnerable to dangerous illnesses. With their advancing age, often they do not enjoy good health or become physically weak. With the recent death of Dr Bill Woods, we were reminded how he suffered from multiple myeloma for fourteen years, during which time he remained active in God's work. Also, Dr Tom Geddis, after a lifetime of service for God, has not enjoyed good health for the last ten months. Missionary Millicent Baillie has undergone repeated surgeries and is still physically restricted.

We encourage you to pray for all our workers, for their welfare as they face practical day-to-day issues related to their health and family. They are only human.



Arrecife, Lanzarote

Ricardo & Sandra

Angelita was born on July 22, 1942 in Mala, a small town that belongs to the municipality of Haría in Lanzarote. At the age of approximately six years old, she heard the gospel of Jesus Christ through the evangelistic work of three Pioneer missionary women from England, who began to spread the message of salvation in that area of the Island. Her grandmother, Lola, looked after the missionaries and also believed in Christ along with another group of neighbours who met in their homes for prayer, and the preaching of the word of God.

After this, despite the opposition and the years of General Franco's dictatorship in Spain, the message of the gospel gradually reached different people on the Island, until a church was formed in the mid-sixties. On August 25, 1975, the first evangelical Christian church was built in Arrecife - Lanzarote, that is, our church. The dictator died and democracy in Spain was re-established. Religious freedom allowed the beginning of the evangelical faith in Spain.



After a few years, Angelita, already married and with her first children, found the church very close to her new home and began to attend at the beginning of the eighties. Although she was not one of the founders, she was part of the pioneering women who faithfully endured in our church and was helpful in every way.

She used all the gifts that the Holy Spirit gave her in the service of the church. She had the gift of poetry, composition, literature and theatre. She was a deaconess, secretary, coordinator of special services and evangelism, and a trustee. Many of the hymns in our church with Canarian folklore were composed with Christian lyrics by Angelita.

She followed the faith of her grandmother Lola and brought all her eight children when they were little and her husband Tomás. As adults, almost all of them took their "own path", only her daughter Loreto remains in the evangelical faith. This is cause for prayer.

Her mother Margarita, being Catholic almost all her life, at the end of her years converted to Christ at the age of 91 and was baptised at 92. It was a miracle that Angelita and the church were able to see and enjoy. Margarita went to be with the Lord at 94 years of age.

Angelita went home to be with the Lord on 27th December 2023. Her funeral service was an opportunity to preach the gospel. It was very emotional. More than one hundred people attended the funeral service in our church. Approximately 70 people, including family, friends, and neighbours from her neighbourhood and town who were not believers, heard the message, her testimony, and received a gospel pamphlet that day. Pray for this.

This is the epitaph that her daughter wrote for the headstone of her grave in the cemetery: "here only my body lies, my soul with the Lord is enjoying a joy and peace that you cannot imagine.

He gave his life for you and is the only one who can save you. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and we will meet again. It is the peace of God that surpasses all human understanding."





ICEA Motto 2024

"We trust that the Lord will complete the good work that he also began in our church"

Philippians 1:6

Acre International has supported our church since approximately 1985. I, Ricardo, was ordained as pastor of our church in 2013. Together with my wife Sandra we have been pastoring the church, supported by God, by the church members, the Acre mission and with the support of the FIEIDE Federation of Churches.

In recent years, the Lord has brought a new generation of believers who have merged with the believers of years ago.

Approximately 120 people, including believers and visitors, regularly gather in for the different services. Many cannot attend every service due to their work schedules on an island that lives off tourism, but they try their best to be present when possible.

There are many brothers and sisters in Christ native to the Canary Islands and Spain, but immigrants from Latin America and Africa also make up the church. The different ministries of children, youth, women and men are functioning very well. We preach and teach the word of God with diligence and good doctrine. We also take the gospel to the elderly in the care homes, to those in the prison, and the sick in the hospital, when we are invited to participate.



God willing, in February we will have the baptisms of Laura, Habacuc and Edita. Currently we have forty members of the local assembly and possibly six new people will be admitted at the next assembly.

God willing, at the end of July, we will have the summer children's Biblical camp again with the help of a team from Northern Ireland.

The Canary Islands Preachers Workshop (TDP) will be held again in Lanzarote for the second consecutive year at the end of May.

Thank you for all your support. For praying and supporting the pastoral family of Lanzarote. God bless you!



Arrecife is a port city on the east coast of Lanzarote, one of Spain's Canary Islands. It is also the Capital city on the Island.

The population of the island was 64,645 in 2020. Its area is 22.72 square kilometres.



Please pray:

- For the unsaved who heard the Gospel message at Angelita's funeral.
- For the work in Arrecife.
- Giving thanks for the new believers in the church.
- For the different ministries of the church.



Coronel Ezequiel, Brazil

Pastor Luís & Aldeniede

The past year has had many different challenges for us. We arrived here into a work which was already twenty two years in operation, but never had a 'Pastor' to lead the work. Tota, one of the deacons worked diligently to keep the church functioning, but he was never recognised as Pastor.

I was saved in 2001, and quite early in my Christian walk the Lord called me into the ministry. I began Bible College in 2003 and I finished my studies in 2006. Following this I took up the work in the town of Tangará, where we stayed for nine years. At the beginning of 2016 we moved to take up the work in Passa e Fica, together with the church in Santo Antonio, where we stayed for seven years. Then at the beginning of 2023, we received the invitation to take up the work in a place called Coronel Ezequiel.

Since we arrived in the town, things have been fairly intense. We received a warm welcome, and had the help of all the members of the church for whatever we needed. We began to reorganise the leadership of the church and to arrange monthly meetings. We have been trying to rebuild the children's work, both in the church and the children's meeting held in the home of one of our members, a lady called Maria. We also started a children's work in Santo Antonio. The work here is small, with five people attending, but they have a small building to meet in, and as well as this new children's club, we also go there each Saturday to meet together with the five attendees.



The meetings here in Coronel Ezequiel have been well attended, and we always have visitors in each of the meetings. There are a number of brothers here who help me in the work, which is a great help, please pray for us all as we serve the Lord.

We have been teaching the believers here about the importance of evangelism and discipleship, and encouraging them to witness in the area in which God has placed them. Many of them have been challenged as we studied the book of Acts on Sunday evenings.



Coronel Ezequiel is a municipality in the state of Rio Grande do Norte.

It has a population of just over 5,500.

In 2010, 34% of its land area was covered in trees.



We have many women who are actively involved in our church, and they have been a blessing to us. Many of them are still young, and sadly a number of them have husbands who are not believers. Please pray for them, and for those who are still teenagers, that God would lead them into Godly relationships, and save those husbands who are still unbelievers.

We give thanks to God for each of you who follow this work closely and pray for us, may

God bless you as together we seek to propagate the gospel.



Please pray:

- For the work in Coronel Ezequiel.
- For the children's work.
- For the unsaved family members.



Annual BBQ

Faith Mission Centre

131 Mahon Rd,
Portadown, Craigavon
BT62 3SF

JUN 29

Free Admission

Freewill offering for the work

7pm

15th March

8pm

Do Something

Special Launch night for new video
interview with the late Dr Bill Woods
along with Etta Halliday (BBC)
Recorded in September 2023.

T3 Conference Centre, VicRyn,
Moira Road, Lisburn at 8pm

see Acre International social media
channels for other regional showings





Hello boys and girls!

This is just for you. Your own magazine.

We want to take you with us on great journeys to different countries around the world and see what amazing things our big God is doing through people who decided to do great things for Him.

On the following pages you will find exciting stories, riddles, quizzes, craft ideas and many more things.

We hope you will enjoy it!

If you are interested to receive our Kids-magazine in the future, let us know and we will send it directly to you.

Send us an email with your address to acrekids@acregospelmission.org

Meet the missionary:



Name: Jander Joia

Place of Birth: Manaus, Brazil

Serving in: Beja in Portugal



Hello

My name is Jander and I was born in Manaus in the Amazonas region and the heart of the Amazon rainforest in Brazil.

I am married to Rebecca and have two children, Mariana and Josué.

I grew up in a christian home. My mother always made sure to read the bible with me and my brother. We also went to all the services in church. It really was a privilege to grow up like this. When I was three years old I understood that I needed Jesus in my life but only when I was eleven I really committed my life to Jesus and He became my Saviour.



The Amazon rainforest



Our home church in Manaus



When I was older, I helped with the kids and young people in our church. I wanted to learn more about how to serve God and so I went to Bible College for five years. There I studied the bible and learned more about God. During that time, I felt that God wanted me to become a missionary. But I still worked as an engineer, and I didn't really want to give that all up to follow God's call to become a missionary. But God worked on my heart and the heart of my wife, Rebecca, and we realized that not even a good job and money is as important as to work for God. God gave me the love for all the people who don't know God yet and are lost in the dark world and in their sins. He also helped me to happily leave everything behind and be ready to serve him. First we didn't know where God wanted us to go but we knew he would show us and he would care for all we need.

And so today we are Missionaries in Portugal. We work in the evangelical church in Beja. There we work with the kids, the young people and also adults.



I haven't seen much yet from Portugal but I really like the Algarve. The beaches in the summer time are so beautiful!



I really miss the food in Brazil – the Brazilian barbecue, the fish called tambaqui with Bananas – but I already have three favourite meals in Portugal: Cod in cream sauce, black pig and custard tarts.



In Brazil we lived in a region with a very tropical climate and we had no clothes for a European winter. We arrived in Portugal in spring and when winter arrived we had no clothes that would keep us warm enough. At that time we didn't have enough money to buy complete new sets of clothes for all of us. We prayed to God one evening about it and went to bed. The next day we received a gift of money from a person from church. Very unexpected! With that money we were able to buy clothes for Mariana and Rebecca. God heard our prayer. God always protects his children and always provides for those who love him. He promised us that he will never leave us and will always be with us. God is so good!

My vision

I find it hard that the people in Portugal seem more reserved towards people from other countries and cultures. Portugal is a country very closed towards the gospel. Many are trapped in the lies of the Roman Catholic Church and many children and young people grow up without knowing who Jesus is. Our job is to tell as many people as possible about Jesus, even if it is only one child, because it is getting harder every day to tell others about the gospel.



Thank you

for all your prayers!

Traditional Portuguese clothing

Throughout most of Portugal's history many people were farmers and fishermen. Because the rural areas were very isolated, traditional clothing was worn until well into the late 20th century.

The materials are very **colourful with patterns** woven into the cloth and embroidery. Red and black are the two most popular colours but you will find there are regional differences.



In one region, some shepherds still dress in the traditional **straw cloak**.

Traditional women's costumes are **long skirts** with colourful checked or striped patterns with a **blouse** and sometimes a **waistcoat**. Embroidered **aprons** are worn over the skirt. The outfit is completed with a **headscarf** to cover the hair. The women also wear several **gold necklaces**. Traditionally, Portuguese men wear short trousers to just below the knees or **long trousers, waistcoats and sombreros**.

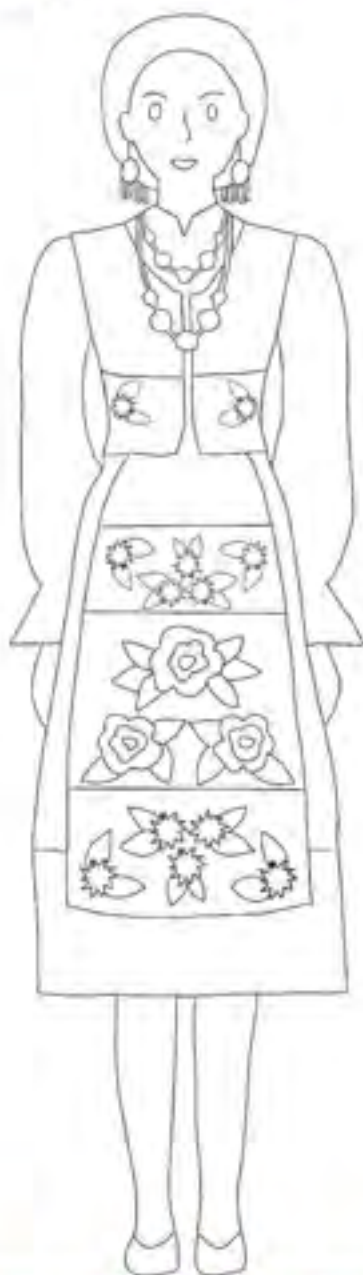


Black felt hats are worn by both women and men in a variety of styles. Women wear porkpie hats with a narrow brim, while men wear narrow or wide brimmed hats in the Spanish style. The women wear their hats over a headscarf.



While traditional dress is not widely worn nowadays, it is still used at weddings and festivals.

Colour in your own!



Saved In the Salon Testimony of Adelaide



For many months now, many Brazilians have been coming to Portugal to seek a new life and some better job opportunities. The Portuguese Evangelical churches have therefore grown in number as many of these Brazilian newcomers are Christian or from Christian backgrounds. Yet the number of Portuguese people in Portuguese Evangelical churches have not really increased.

Santo Andre Church is no exception. We are having a very good group of new Brazilians and some of them have become members of our church.

So it has been a great blessing when Adelaide, a 76 years old Portuguese lady came to know the Lord and has started to attend our church.

Adelaide is from a Roman Catholic background. She is Portuguese, but lived in Mozambique all her life until the Independence of Mozambique. Then she came to Portugal to live in Lisbon.

When she became a widow she came to live near one of her daughters here in Santo André. Then she met Angela, a hairdresser. Angela (left of picture) is a Christian and is a member of our church.

Angela is very good at evangelism and she always does so in her salon. Adelaide has never had an easy life, especially after she left Mozambique. As she was sharing with Angela all her troubles and trials, Angela started to witness to her and one day Adelaide accepted the Lord as her Saviour. Angela told her to start attending an evangelical church so Adelaide started to come to our church.

Her love for the Lord is sincere but her knowledge of biblical doctrine is confused as she tries to forget her catholic teachings and embrace the real biblical truths. She often says she wants to know more about the Bible and about God.

She is quite elderly but she tries to attend the Sunday services and all the midweek meetings as much as she can. She attended all our special Christmas meetings and she helped as much as she could, bringing lovely food and tidying and cleaning.

In December, she came with us all to the Bethlehem Village in the Algarve church, and she loved it. She also goes very regularly to Angela's salon to speak with her about the Lord as she has a great desire to know more about the Bible and recently, Adelaide has expressed her wish to be baptised, and so Aroldo is going through the teaching of baptism with her, and will organise a baptism service in due course.

So we are very pleased that, in the middle of all the Brazilian new comers, a lovely Portuguese lady was saved, is coming to our church, sharing and learning with us and is very eager to be part of our community.

Nisia Floresta, Brazil

Pastor Junior & Cristina



It is a great privilege for me to be able to share a little bit about the work here in Nisia Floresta. We give thanks unto God for all that He has been doing in this area of Brazil in the last weeks and months.

There have been many special meetings held in the church here in Nisia Floresta, and also in the community of Mazapa, where we go to share the gospel with the people there. In November, we held a special meeting to celebrate the birthday of Nequinho, which was a very special opportunity to gather together all of his family, and an opportunity to share with them all from God's word.

On 18th November we were able to participate in the youth conference held in the church at Santa Cruz. This was a great opportunity for our church youth to go and be a part of this conference, to meet up with other young people, and to hear from God's word. In December, we were able to take part in the workers meetings for those involved in MEA, the mission to which we belong and work for.

This was a lovely time of fellowship and prayer together, and we were able to share of our experiences, blessings and challenges together, and pray for one another and the work we are involved in here.



Leading up to Christmas we held our annual Christmas dinner on 24th December, bringing together all of the families within our church, and on Christmas Day, we had our carol service, where we had the participation of the children with singing and congregational singing of the carols, and the young people presented us with the story of the nativity. To bring in the new year we joined together in the church for a watch night service, beginning at 9pm and remaining together until the new year arrived at midnight, with prayers for the new year and a message from God's word.



Nisia Floresta is a municipality of Rio Grande do Norte just south of the metropolitan area of Natal in Brazil. It is a popular destination due to its beaches and lakes.

The town of Nisia Floresta originated from a colonial village called Papary, originally populated by native Brazilians and Portuguese settlers. The name "Nisia Floresta" was given as a tribute to a famous writer from the region.



We thank God for all that took place over another year that has passed, and we look to Him for help, strength and guidance for the year 2024. We want to say thank you to each of you who took the time to pray for us throughout the year, and may God bless you as you continue to pray and support this work

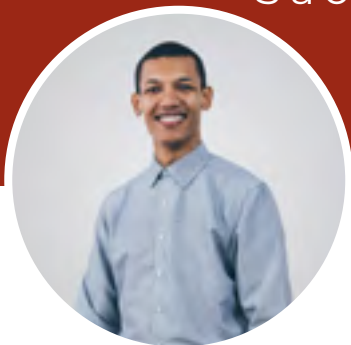


Please pray:

- For the work in Nisia Floresta.
- For the outreach in the community of Mazapa.
- For the work among the youth.

São Paulo Do Potengi

Pastor Anderson



My name is Pastor Anderson and I am the Pastor of the church in São Paulo Do Potengi, in the North East of Brazil, in the state of Rio Grande Do Norte. As a family we thank God for all of his goodness and provision upon our lives, and we also want to thank you as faithful supporters of the mission who help to sustain us here in this work. I would like to report to you of some of the activities and ministries that we are involved in here.

We continue our door to door evangelism. With the help of some friends, we are able to stop at various houses and conduct small evangelical meetings, where we can preach the gospel and open the scriptures and talk with those who stop to listen.

We recently had a good conversation with a lady called Francisquinha, a practising Roman Catholic, but who was very interested in the scriptures. In our conversation together, she talked about having faith, and in fact told us that it is only through faith that a person can be saved.

We believe she knows the true way of salvation and that she has a genuine faith in the Lord Jesus. We are also praying for these people whom we have spoken to on the doors; Ryan, Josivam, Edson, Gracinha and Josineide. Please pray for their salvation, and for further conversations as we continue this open air ministry.

Within our weekly church services we have been studying the book of Mark, and are currently in chapter fourteen. In our bible study, we have been looking at a panoramic view of the Old Testament, and we are currently in the book of Judges. I ask you to pray for wisdom in the preparation of the messages, for transformation in the lives of the believers as they listen and apply God's word to their lives, and for those who visit that they too would be changed through the power of the gospel.

I want to share with you the testimony of a man called Edson. He writes the following:

"My mother always prayed for me, that one day I would be converted and my life changed.

However, I always said to her that to be a Christian, you don't have to be in church, in other words, I wanted to live my way, and I wanted to believe that whatever kind of faith I had would be enough. Some days I would arrive home drunk, other days I would be on drugs, and this was my life for twenty years. But God was merciful with me, he broke me, he regenerated me, he put people before me who shared with me the gospel message, and today I am a new person.

My past has brought me consequences, but this has not stopped me wanting to know more about the Lord Jesus Christ. Pray for me as I continue my recovery from a life of addiction, and for help to be involved in the work of evangelism, reaching others for Christ".

Thank you for your prayers for us, and for the work that we are involved in here



São Paulo do Potengi is a municipality in the state of Rio Grande do Norte in the Northeast region of Brazil.

The village was elevated to the category of town in December 31, 1938.

The region has a population of 17,720.



Please pray:

- For the work in São Paulo Do Potengi.
- For the door to door outreach.
- For the series on the book of Mark, that those hearing it would be challenged.



Update on Revive

Revive, our young adults work has been up and running again for a couple of years now and while our numbers aren't the same as they were pre-pandemic, we have still been blessed with a consistent few young folk coming along each month.

In February we had Ruth Nelson from CEF Europe along to share about her work, web design and communications. It is a role that is rarely first to mind when thinking about mission work, but it was interesting to hear from another mission and how they view multimedia as another tool to reach the lost, the value it can bring to a mission and some of the challenges they face in producing content.



This year we have been focussed on bringing in guest speakers from a variety of different mission organisations who perform several different roles and functions to give them an opportunity to share about their work and to also give an opportunity to the young people in attendance to hear about different aspects of mission work that they might not ordinarily hear about.



As a mission we have a desire to see more young people get involved with the work of Acre and through Revive we have seen a few young people come on mission teams and even attend some of our events throughout the year, most recently the Christmas Praise event in which we had a good number in attendance. If you know of any young adults (18-30s) who have a heart for mission and a desire to know more why not give them an invitation to Revive, it's on the 1st Saturday of each month.



Revive is held in the Connect Hall, Dromara on the 1st Saturday of the Month from Sept to June at 7:30pm.

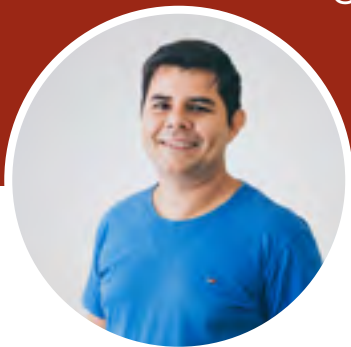


Please pray:

- For the work of Revive.
- For that more young adults would come along and seek to get involved with mission.
- For the upcoming events and the planning for future events.

Urucurituba, Brazil

Jonas Neto



My name is Jonas, I am 37 years old and over the last number of years I have been helping my mother, Altina, in the school ministry in Manaus.

At the end of last year, in the month of October 2023, the leadership of my church approached me and asked me if I would consider going to Urucurituba, a town up river from Manaus, to Pastor a small church there. I accepted this invitation, and moved to the town of Urucruituba.

Shortly after moving to this new town, I began to look for ways to begin the work of evangelism within the schools here. I believe the Lord has given me this burden to share the gospel with the children of Amazonas, and now, as I live in this new town, I want to carry on this work here also.

I thank God that the doors for this work are open here, and I have been able to go into the school called Djanira. The Principal, a lady called Gracilene, welcomed me in and offered me all the help I needed. She is hoping this year to be able to give me more time in the school, to teach both in the morning and the afternoon.

As with any town, there are lots of children living here, and so I have been able to get involved with another children's work called Boas Novas (Good News). The club takes place on Wednesday evenings, in the house of a lady called Lucineth. These have been great meetings, the children never miss, and they always love to take part in all the activities.

God willing, two ladies and I will take part in a CEF training course online, which will help us to learn more in the task of sharing the gospel with the children.

I am thankful to the work of MEA that today I am here doing this work among the children, having received the opportunity from these faithful brothers who have a vision for the work here. Please pray for the children of Boas Novas, for the children in the Djanira school, and also that God would open further doors in other schools in the town. Pray also for the CEF course, that we would be able to put into practice what we have learned. Pray also for me, on a personal level, as I settle into this new town, for friendships, and for good health. God bless each of you

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.

Name.....
Address
.....
Postcode.....
Email

Please send to:

Acre International, 52A Halfpenny Gate Road, Moira, Co. Armagh, BT67 0HP

Prayer Meetings



Lisburn
Portadown
Lurgan
Bangor
Carrickfergus
Kells
Mid-Ulster
Omagh

for more information please get in touch

Acre International



For more information



www.acregospelmission.org



office@acregospelmission.org



www.facebook.com/acreinternational



[@acreinternational](https://www.instagram.com/acreinternational)



+44 7710 506939

