

InTouch

MAGAZINE

Summer 2023



Dates for Your Diary



Zoom Prayer Meeting:

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

1st July: ACRE BBQ

7pm
Faith Mission Centre, Portadown
131 Mahon Road, Portadown

9-14th Oct: Fátima Mission Team

Fátima, Portugal

27th October: Praise Night

Magheragall Methodist Church

13-16th November: Autumn Break in the Killyhevlin

Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen
Booking forms available soon
£265 per person sharing
Single room £75 supplement

Contact Details

Acre Gospel Mission
30 Carnglave Manor, Spa, Ballynahinch
+44 7710 506939 | +4428 9756 3200

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

Director's Thought for the day



As I look back over the last 55 years of my life, I have so much to thank the Lord for. For His protection, provision and for His abundant salvation. With the Psalmist David, I can say He lifted me from the miry clay and set my feet on a solid rock and put a new song of praise in my mouth.

There is no greater blessing than knowing Christ and having the peace, joy and assurance of His salvation and of being with the Saviour in heaven one day. There is no greater work than serving the Lord and having the privilege of taking this good news of the Gospel to those who have never heard.

Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, And thy thoughts which are to us-ward: They cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: If I would declare and speak of them, They are more than can be numbered..

Psalms 40:5

From the beginning of Acre Gospel Mission in 1937, this was the desire of William & Margaret McComb and all of the other mission workers who have served with Acre over the past 86 years.

God is Faithful and we want to praise Him for all that is past and trust Him for all that's to come in His will in future days.

When we count our many blessings and name them one by one, surely it does surprise us what the Lord has done.

As you read through this magazine, may you be encouraged and blessed as you stand with us in the work of God across the world.

Cover Image: Camp Sonshine Portugal

Magazine edited by Jeffrey Ferguson, designed by Peter Moore

Kids magazine designed and edited by Marianna Ferguson

Martins, Brazil

Pastor Adílio Lima



My name is Adílio Lima, and I am from the town of São Paulo do Potengi, in the state of Rio Grande do Norte. I became a believer in 2005 through the preaching of Pastor Elias Lima, who at that point was a missionary worker with MEA (the Brazilian arm of Acre International).

I was the first member of my family to believe in the Lord. It was a very difficult time for me because of this. Around the year 2006 I felt that God was calling me into the ministry. And so, in 2008, I began my studies at Bible Seminary in a place called Cariri.

In 2012, I began pastoring a church in the town of Malta, in the interior of the state of Paraíba, where I worked for almost 2 years. After this, I was pastor of a church in Juazeiro do Norte, where I was involved in the planting of another congregation, and also with the youth of the church. At the end of 2014, I met Priscylla, and we were married in 2016, and we now have a daughter, called Heloísa, who is 3 years old.



In 2020, we left the church and began praying about another ministry. In the meantime, the covid pandemic began, which in turn made it difficult to find another ministry. With Heloísa still a baby, we helped out at a small church near our house. Then in the middle of 2022, we entered into conversation with a church called Maranata in Martins. We made some visits there, and preached in the church, and we were invited to take up the work.

During the interim period I had been teaching classes in order to sustain the family. And so, I terminated my teaching contract and on 29th December 2022 we made the move to Martins. We are in the process of adapting to this new town. Martins is, for us, very cold. We have been used to living in places with very warm weather. It is located in a mountainous area.

The church is made up of 12 members. The meetings we have are, Prayer meeting on Wednesdays, youth meeting on Saturdays, The Sunday school made up of 3 classes, adults, youth and children. Then we have our Sunday service in the evening. We have begun visitation with our church members and we have been looking for opportunities to preach the gospel. By the grace of God, 2 couples have recently been converted. We are doing bible studies with them.



At the beginning of March, we held our first meeting for the married couples. It was a great time, with 4 non-Christian couples present. We are also preparing to hold a children's meeting on Saturday evenings, and also we plan to have both men's and women's meetings.

We send our thanks to those who support this work and we rely upon your prayers on our behalf that God would open doors for more opportunities to preach the Gospel, and that He would give us wisdom in leading the church. May God bless you all.



Martins is a municipality in the state of Rio Grande do Norte. One of the main tourist destinations in the interior of the state, Martins is located at an altitude of more than 700 meters.

Martins has the highest rainfall index in Rio Grande do Norte, which exceeds 1,100mm per year.

The population in 2021 was 8,790.



Please pray:

- For the church in Martins.
- For opportunities to preach the Gospel.
- For the non-Christian couples who have been attending the meetings.

Sousa, Brazil

Pastor Lucas



It is with great joy that I write and say that God is calling workers into the harvest, men and women who have responded to the call of God. The planting of churches has become a big motivation for my life. Churches that love the Lord, who are relevant within the area they are planted, who edify one another in love, and proclaim the gospel in other places so that other new churches might be formed.

God has been working on my heart regarding this for the last few years, and so, at the beginning of April, we announced to the church where I was the Pastor, that we would be leaving the pastorate in order to focus solely on this new vision. Please pray for the church we leave behind that they will soon find a new Pastor to take up the work there.



In 2022, we began a new church work called Igreja Batista Resgatar. We are based in the city of Sousa, and together with a group of 16 other Christians, we began meeting in 2 houses, one on Wednesday night and the other on a Thursday night. On Fridays we run a children's meeting, where we would have about 40 to 50 children coming along. On the last Friday of the month we have a ladies meeting, when many from the local district come in. We also want to start a work with the teens and youth through football, every Saturday morning, where we will train them to be good athletes but also teach them about Jesus.

Pray for us as we consider when to start having regular Sunday meetings. We feel that we should start the meetings at the beginning of 2024. We currently have about 30 percent of the financial backing required. We don't currently have a place where we can meet, but we have been thinking of how it will work. Perhaps we can use a school building, or rent a premises that we can use on a regular basis.

We want to do everything in the best way possible for the glory of God. We will also need to acquire the necessary items required for a church building, such as chairs, audio and visual equipment, a pulpit, communion table and so on. These next months will be spent organising everything necessary to enable us to commence our regular meetings.



Pray for us, for my wife Millene, and our children Estêvão, Liz and Miguel, that God would fill us with His Spirit, and that He would give us an unshakable spirit to be able to do His will. We thank you all for your interest in this work, and may God have all the glory in what we do here in Sousa.



Sousa is a municipality in the state of Paraíba in the Northeast Region of Brazil.

It lies in the region called the Valley of the Dinosaurs, and has a population of 69,723.



Please pray:

- For the work in Sousa, that they would find a location for regular Sunday meetings.
- For the finances of the work.
- For Pastor Lucas and his family as they seek to do God's work.



Vale Judeu, Portugal

Glenn Bowden

Joyful, thankful, privileged, are some of the words that describe the way I have been feeling over this past year, after living in Portugal over the past 9 years. The first few years of ministry here I found very different to being involved for 12 years at Newtownbreda Baptist both culturally, and socially. Everything was new and it was like starting afresh, and nothing seemed to work the way I thought it would. A verse that kept coming up time and time again was Isaiah 43:19

"Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert".

It's so important to pause and look around you, or you might miss what God is doing. He is never stagnated, He's always moving, always doing unique and wonderful things, and getting caught up in your abilities and ideas can cause you to miss His marvellous works, either in you, or around you.

Over the past month I've decided to count my blessings, the things that God in His grace has allowed me to witness... Things like the international and the Portuguese church growing both in number and with a desire to go deeper in their relationship with Him. What a blessing to see these services packed out, but most importantly to see people with a passion for worship and for God's word. What a privilege to see the youth work grow, and the many different cultures, nationalities, and backgrounds that come to the youth every Friday night with a desire to grow in their love and knowledge of God, and finding real, wholesome relationships with other Christians.

ITLC bible college is now in its 3rd year and I have been so blessed to see over 30 students come and go, forever changed by God's word, and some even going into full-time ministry in order to make God's name known to such a needy world.



Camp Sonshine Portugal, now in its 13th year, is a place where the good news is shared with the children and teens both in word and in deed, and what a blessing to see many kids and young people trust in Christ, and so many of them now part of this church and churches throughout the Algarve and beyond.

Surely God is doing something new in this dry and thirsty land, surely He is making a way in the wilderness, and what a blessing it has been to watch, and to actually be involved in what God has prepared beforehand *"that we should walk in them"* (Ephesians 2:10).



My part in all of this is to be available to serve Him here on the field, your part has been to pray and support the work, and together what an absolute pleasure it has been to work in partnership in the ministering of the gospel.



When you get the opportunity, sit and think about all the times you prayed, and financially supported the work of Acre International, all the prayer meetings, and conferences you have attended, every word of encouragement and support you've given to God's workers out on the field, and realise the part you have played in God's great rescue plan for this world who so desperately needs to encounter Jesus. That even though you may have not even visited Portugal, Brazil, or the Canary Islands, you are as actively involved as any missionary. We are so thankful for all of the prayers, support, and interest in both the work and the workers. Together it has been a wonderful blessing to be God's hands and feet amongst the nations.



Please pray:

- For continued growth in the Portuguese church.
- For the college students.
- For Camp Sunshine.



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: Glenn Bowden

Date of Birth: 31.10.1971

Place of Birth: Belfast, Northern Ireland

Serving in: Vale Judeu, Portugal



Hello

My name is Glenn and I grew up in East Belfast.

I became a Christian when I was 20 years old after years of feeling I had no purpose in life and that life felt empty, even though I was doing everything the world told me to do in order to find happiness. When I was a kid I was sent to Sunday school and there I was taught about Jesus and that he came into this world to give us life and that life in all its fullness was only to be had in and through having a relationship with Him.

God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.
Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God
does not have life.

1 John 5:11-12



So one Sunday night I decided to go to a little church in Templemore Avenue, Belfast. There I heard the amazing good news that Jesus loved me so much that He died for me so that if I believed and trusted in Him I could have my sins forgiven, a new life and a purpose, and become a child of God. That very night I put my trust in Him. And even though life has been hard I have never looked back, because our God is faithful and always keeps His promises.



I had worked for 12 years as a youth pastor for Newtownbreda Baptist when I felt a call from God about stepping out into mission. For over nine years during my time at Newtownbreda I had been taking young people out on mission trips to Portugal and running summer camps for the kids and youth of the Algarve. It was there that I felt the call of God and a passion and desire to reach the people of Portugal. So after a lot of prayer and guidance I stepped out in faith, left my job at Newtownbreda Baptist, and nine years ago this year came to Portugal.

In Portugal I am working alongside other missionaries for the International Church of the Algarve. The Algarve is a beautiful region in the very south of Portugal.



I'm involved in...



Church services
&
youth program



Bethlehem village



Camp Songstine

Summer camp
for kids and
teenagers that
runs three weeks
in July

Bible college

to equip, encourage,
and motivate young
adults to be trained
for full-time ministry.



My favourite place in the whole of Portugal is a wee town called Vila Nova de Milfontes which is so beautiful.
My favourite food in Portugal is Peri Peri Chicken, I love it!!!

The most difficult part of my move to Portugal was the culture.
It is so very different to the Northern Irish way of doing things.
The Portuguese are very laid back.
But after a while with God's help I have grown to love how chilled they are.
I do miss Ireland but mostly family and friends, oh and all our lovely buns and cakes.



One of my favourite stories from Portugal, and there are many, is the story of Tomás. He grew up in an orphanage here in the Algarve. Every year we would invite orphanages from all over the Algarve to come to our summer camps for free. Tomás was one of those kids who came to camp and whilst he was with us he heard the most amazing stories of Jesus and His love for us. That's when Tomás decided to follow Jesus and accepted Him into his heart and life. Tomás grew over the years in his relationship with Jesus and loved to talk about God and what God was doing in his life and through his life. Five years on and Tomás is now at our bible school learning about Jesus and how to share Him with others. It's such a beautiful story of God's love and grace.



My vision

I have really fallen in love with Portugal and the Portuguese people and my hearts desire is to see this country fall in love with Jesus and to accept Him as their Lord and Saviour. It would be so amazing to see this country transformed by His love and grace.

Thank you
for all your prayers!

The flag of Portugal

Every country is represented by its own unique flag. Did you know that the colours and the symbols on those flags all have a meaning behind them? They are often chosen to represent the history of the country. The flag of Portugal is the same. It has many different things on it and all of them tell a story. Let me tell you just a little bit about it...

The current flag was adopted in 1911, a year after the revolution which brought down the Constitutional Monarchy and set up a Republic.

Green: Represents the nation and the hope of the people for change after centuries under a monarchy.

Red: Represents the blood of the nation, and those who died in the 1910 revolution.



The seven forts represent the seven fortresses that King Alfonso III captured during his conquest of the Algarve.

Five blue shields represent the victories of King Alfonso I over five Moorish Kings.
The five white dots within this shield represent the five wounds of Christ.

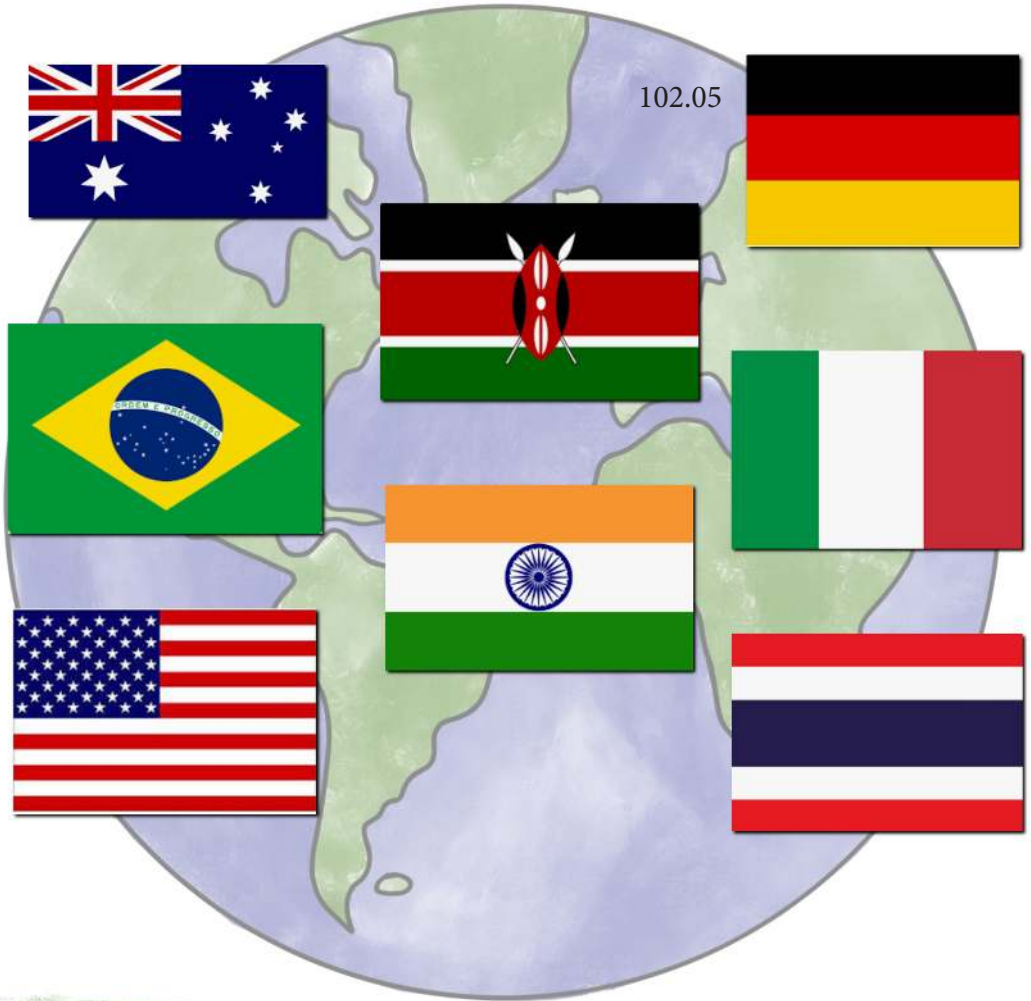
The coat of arms.
The Shield has been present on every Portuguese flag since 1143.

The armillary Sphere (Behind the shield)
This is an astronomical instrument used by Portuguese sailors. It represents the Age of Discoveries where Portuguese explorers sailed around the world and which led to Portugal's colonial empire.

Flags around the world

How well do you know the flags around the world?
Can you match the right flag to the listed countries?

Kenya, Germany, Thailand, Italy, Brazil, United States of America, India, Australia



Let's pray...

There are Missionaries from or working in all these countries. Jesus told his disciples to go into all the world. And that is what they did and still do. Why not pick one country this month and pray for the people living in it, for the missionaries working there and for the churches that already exist there. It can be a country that is listed here or just look at the map of the world and pick one. I know that God will use your prayers to work out amazing things!

News from Europe



The ladies from the church in Lanzarote, under the leadership of Sandra (wife of Ricardo, Pastor of the Evangelical Church in Arrecife), went on a ladies retreat to the neighbouring Island of Tenerife. We trust that this was a blessing and encouragement to those who attended, and an opportunity to build friendships and to learn more about their faith.



Our Portugal Outreach Team travelled once again to the town of Fátima, from 8th-14th May 2023. They had a great time distributing literature to the many thousands of pilgrims who were making their way to the shrine of the Virgin Mary in the town centre. They were also able to go around many of the local homes and post some literature into the letter boxes. We pray for those people who received the literature that they would discover the true way of Salvation through Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross.



On Saturday 13th May 2023 the induction service took place in the church in Beja, Portugal, for Jander and Rebecca Joia. Jander and Rebecca, along with

their little daughter Mariana, made the journey from Manaus, Brazil, to Portugal on 9th April 2023, having only received the necessary paperwork for travel the day before. This was an anxious wait for them but they knew that God was in control. Mission Director, Keith Lindsay, was able to be there at the induction service to bring greetings on behalf of the Mission. Please pray for the Joia family as they settle into this new setting, and especially for Rebecca, for good health during the pregnancy, as they await the birth of their second child.



Northern Ireland

Jeffrey & Marianna Ferguson

Since moving back to Northern Ireland at the end of 2020, it has been our privilege to serve alongside what we now refer to as the 'Home Team'. Serving along with Keith and Karen Lindsay, Peter Moore, and Victor and Audrey Maxwell, we have been seeking to assist on the home front, to help promote the work, to encourage prayer support, and to take up some administrative tasks as well.

We believe that our work as a team here is vital to ensure that the work of our missionaries on the field can continue, and that they can feel the support of the people back home, standing with them, and enabling them to be on the field and to do the work of the Lord, where He has called them to be.

Of course, working as a team brings about changes, and we have been working together to slot into our various roles, so that we can effectively serve the Lord for the good of the mission.

I, Jeffrey, have had the opportunity to speak at many different church meetings, and to speak about the work that the mission is involved in, and to share with the people the wonderful things that are happening in the different fields. I've been to men's meetings, ladies meetings, midweek and Sunday services, and it has also been great to go around the different Acre prayer meetings, and to meet those faithful prayer warriors who stand behind the work each month in prayer.

I have also taken on the editing of this magazine, which involves gathering up the reports from our missionaries, and if necessary translating them into English, and I also compile the monthly Praise and Prayer Bulletin, which contains 3 or 4 prayer points from each of the missionaries, which helps to give people something to pray for throughout the month. God willing, in September, we will go to Portugal for a couple of weeks to be with the church in Santo Andre, to cover for Aroldo and Emmanuelle Areas who will be away on a well earned holiday.

We are also involved in running the Revive youth meetings; these happen once a month in the Connect Hall in Dromara, and over the past season we have been blessed to have had a good attendance of young people, coming in to hear the missionary challenge. We pray that some would take up that challenge and follow the Lord's call into service for Him.

Marianna has been working on the development of Acre Kids, and many of you will have seen the various editions of the Kids Magazines which have been produced, specifically for children, and with a missionary focus, to encourage them to think about mission, and to help them understand what a missionary is and what they do. In recent editions, she has been using the life stories of our current missionaries and presenting them in a child friendly way.



She has also had the opportunity to go into several children's meetings to speak to the boys and girls, and has also gone into a couple of Primary Schools to speak at the school assembly.

On a personal level we want to thank you for your prayers for us as a family. Our daughter Emma is now 11 months old, and is doing well. She already has her 2 front teeth, is crawling and attempting to walk, and even seems to understand both English and German! We value your prayers as we continue to serve the Lord, and that he would use us as a family to be a blessing to those that we meet and interact with.

If you would like us to come to your church to speak about the mission, or to take a children's meeting, please feel free to get in touch and we can organise that with you.



Please pray:

- For us as a family.
- For continued opportunities to speak about the work.
- For Jeff & Marianna as they cover the work in Santo Andre in September.
- For the work of editing the magazine and producing the monthly prayer and praise points.
- For the work of Acre Kids.

Supporting our missionaries in the place of prayer

Acre International is blessed to have many people who stand behind the work in prayer each month. Across the country, there are several prayer groups which meet monthly and faithfully pray for the needs of the mission and its workers. In this edition of InTouch, we will read of the Omagh Prayer Meeting, which is currently run by Gareth Jones.

The Omagh Prayer Meeting began in March of 2011, in the home of Jonathan and Claire Buchanan, just outside the village of Beragh in County Tyrone. Up until this point, there was no other prayer meeting in the western area of the country, and having become involved with the mission on an outreach trip to Fátima, Portugal, Jonathan and Claire felt that this was something they could do to encourage further prayer support for the mission.



And so, once a month, they opened up their home and welcomed in a good number of supporters who came along for a time of prayer for the work. During the years that followed, many of the missionaries associated with the mission came along to visit, and gave encouraging reports about the work they were involved in.

On one such occasion, they were glad to welcome Ricardo and Sandra to the meeting, along with their children Daniel and Andrea, who spoke of the work in Lanzarote and also sang together as a family. Jonathan recounts that “there were great times of prayer during these meetings, and now many of those faithful prayer warriors who joined with us have gone on to be with the Lord”. Of course, no meeting was ever over until all had received a hearty supper, where one could expect to receive a cup of tea, a sandwich or two, and a wide variety of tasty treats!

The final meeting in Jonathan and Claire’s home took place in June 2015. They were to move house from Beragh to just outside Portadown, and there being an established prayer meeting already in Portadown, they felt there was no need to start another one, and instead gave their support to the Portadown meeting. However, what was to become of the Omagh prayer meeting? Would it continue, or perhaps close down?

Jonathan and Claire were keen to see it continue, and were very pleased when Gareth Jones, who attended the prayer meeting, and had also been involved with the mission on various trips to Fátima, agreed to take on the running of the meeting. And so the meetings moved from Beragh, to Sixmilecross, and again, during those years, and until the present day, there have been many great nights of prayer.

In 2020, when the covid pandemic struck, all meetings were cancelled and for a time there were no prayer meetings in Gareth's home. However, in September of 2021, the group began to meet once again on Zoom, and have continued to do so each month.

In the summer of 2022, some of the Omagh Prayer Group were involved in 3 days of outreach in the Omagh, Dungannon and Cookstown areas.



We thank God for their interest in seeing those in the local area reached with the gospel message, and we give thanks to those who have supported the prayer meeting down through the years.



Here is a list of our prayer meetings, if you would like further information please do get in touch:

Bangor:

First Friday of the month - 2.30pm

Carrickfergus:

Last Saturday of the month - 7.30pm

Kells:

Last Friday of the month - 8pm

Lisburn:

Last Thursday of the month - 8pm

Lurgan

3rd Monday of the month - 2pm

Mid Ulster:

Last Tuesday of the month - 8pm

Omagh:

Third Thursday of the month - 8pm

Portadown

3rd Monday of the month - 8pm



Obituary - Irene McClymont (Nee McComb)

(written by Eleanor Wallace - Irene's sister)

Irene McClymont, older daughter of William and Margaret McComb, died 23 April, 2023. She was 90.

Irene was born in Manaus, Brazil, but was taken as a small baby to live with the Amazon Indians with whom her parents were serving as missionaries.

Conditions were extremely primitive and unhygienic, and especially difficult when weaning. Milk came from grated nuts steeped in water and drained, and bananas formed a large part of the diet. As she grew teeth and could chew, monkey was the meat available. Despite the inadequate diet, she survived sturdily and was brought home as a toddler to Belfast, where she thrived.

William McComb had, years before, felt the call to Acre, a State known as "The end of the world" at that time. Now, in 1937 during furlough, he resigned from the Mission with which he was working and decided to move out in faith to a small place called Boca do Acre. This presented difficulties regarding Irene, not least with schooling. (Later, other Acre missionaries were faced with the same problem, and most of the children

were separated from their parents in boarding school upriver).

With great reluctance, Irene's parents decided to leave their precious daughter with a kind couple, teachers who had a daughter the same age. Relatives had offered to look after her, but did not have children. Her parents' hearts ached when the 4 year old asked them repeatedly "But you wouldn't leave me, would you?".

God's call, however, was insistent and they went, planning to be away no more than 3 years. World War 2 intervened, with no civilian Transatlantic travel, and it was over 8 years before the 3 were reunited.

Irene, in the meantime, had accepted the couple as her parents. Now she was facing a second separation from dearly loved people, to live with folk she didn't remember, and think of them as parents.

As with many missionaries' children who had similar experiences, (including her parents' missionary colleagues) the relationship was at times strained.

Irene found security, and a feeling of true belonging, when she married Tom McClymont. They were actively interested in the Mission, and had missionaries stay with them in Scotland and take meetings in their Gospel hall.

Her happiness was shattered when Tom died from a heart attack, when she was 55.

Over the 35 years she spent alone, she retreated from active involvement in mission work. In later years she was increasingly frail but continued to support financially not only Acre, but many other missions. She was meticulous about tithing.

She is survived by her daughter Irene, son Donald, grandchildren Bev, Craig, Lauren and Matthew, and great grandchild Olivia



ACRE International



AUTUMN BREAK

AT THE KILLYHEVLIN



13-16
November

In conversation with **ACRE missionaries**

Killyhevin Hotel

Dublin Rd, Killyhevin, Enniskillen BT74 6RW

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, 30 Carnglave Manor, Spa, Ballynahinch, BT24 8XE



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Mission Discovery Days

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- ...the Volcanos of Lanzarote
- ...the beaches of Portugal

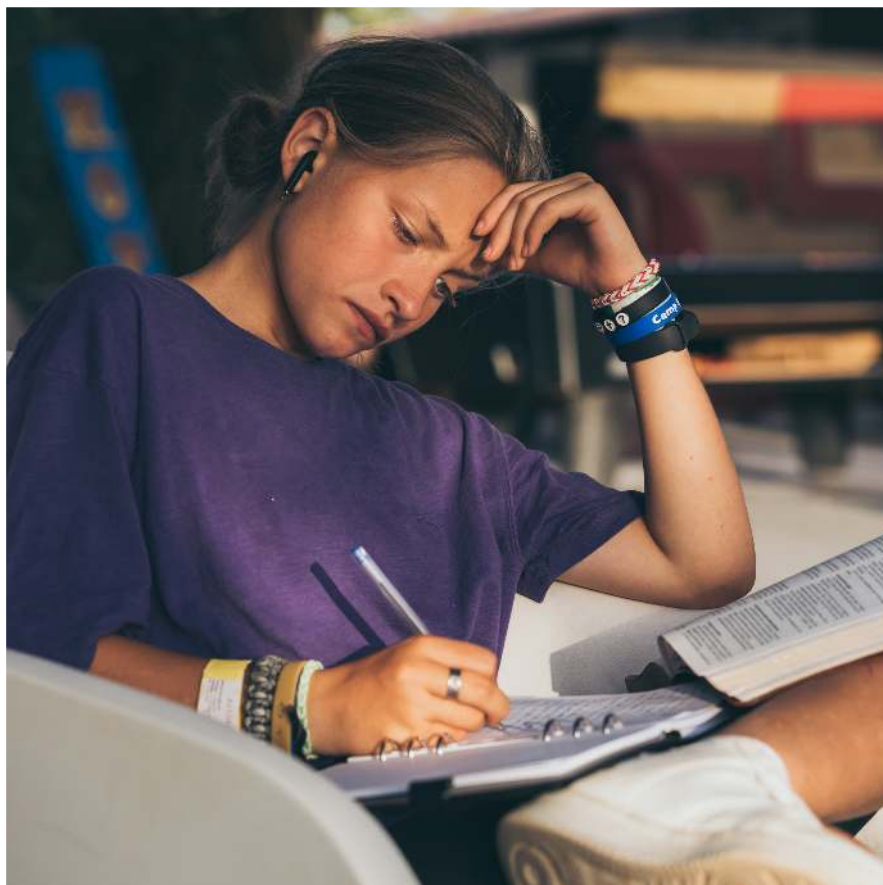
and learn more about how our missionaries went on a journey with God to become messengers of the best News ever!

- Missionary stories
- Facts, food & culture
- Music & bible input

Book us now for your Sunday school, Good News Club, Youth meetings and School
acrekids@acregospelmission.org



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