**Making Disciples International (UK) May Newsletter 2019**

**www.makingdisciples.co.uk**

**Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. Hebrews 11:1-2 NKJV**

Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ! We are learning so much more about walking in faith. Led by the Holy Spirit.

The Bible’s definition of faith has two key features that confirm authenticity: “things hoped for” –and “things not seen”. God speaks a Rhema word, the Holy Spirit brings it to life in our hearts and thus with confidence and trust we place our hand in the Holy Spirit’s. We can anticipate a thorough theoretical and practical spiritual education. Faith takes us out of our comfort zone, beyond our means, education and abilities into a realm where the impossible “things” become reality because God is the Author and Finisher of our faith.

**Hebrews 12:1-2 .. let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith …. NKJV**

The adventure of faith is one of discipleship – coming to actively know Jesus and His Father (John 17:3). There are many truths about God our Father not yet in our possession. We know what others say by their experience, but what do we know *by experience*? Biblical faith marches us into experiential knowledge of God’s character, nature and ways. Faith has an eager ear inclined to the Lord, a driving hunger for His Word, a gentle spirit that can be taught and an active passion to serve God and His Kingdom whole-heartedly. Lord, revive this type of faith within the Church!

The first five months of this year have been devoted to vision. With international travelling days few, we hold in our hearts a vision of our home being a vibrant hub of discipleship, a place of meeting with Jesus, of healing, restoration and learning of Him. We see God’s people gathering in the main part of our home – the Annex still being used to welcome missionaries for debriefing and retreat.

In January the motorhome was sacrificed to release funds – wonderfully the first people who saw it bought it – just as God said. Work then began to replace a living room wall with bi-fold doors and enlarge the adjacent conservatory. This has created a larger “L” shaped meeting space for up to 20/25 people looking out over the garden. Additionally, Mintie’s bathroom has been extended and upgraded with wonderful equipment that helps preserve treasured personal independence. Five dusty and trying months later, the changes are done and it looks so beautiful and inviting.

We marvel at the Lord. In 1995, broken and disorientated, He said, “Go to Worthing it will be your mission base and a place of blessing”. With a motorhome and £50 in the bank we moved to Worthing and rented a house we could not afford. Ten months later God supplied the finances to purchase a small house. Then, when stairs became impossible for Mintie our MET Trustees said, “go bigger – God has a plan for a change”. We went off to South Africa on a ministry trip bewildered – “How can that be, surely if we go smaller we can pay off the mortgage and be more comfortable financially. It makes sense economically - we don’t want another mortgage.” Then, just as we were packing to return to the UK from Johannesburg, our host and precious friend, Dr.Pieter Fourie, prayed and prophesied over us declaring the scripture, “Enlarge the place of your tent” (Isaiah 54:2). He saw in vision a home on the edge of town with hills which could be seen from the window. “God says it will suit your needs and My plans. Go bigger – God wants to bless you.” Our Trustees in the UK confirmed the prophecy – they also had heard the same word from God. They exhorted us, “Go and look for a house which suits you personally and has the potential to fulfil God’s vision in your heart.”

Here we are – in 2002 we found this one-level English bungalow on a spacious corner plot and made an offer without money, by faith. Weeks later through a bizarre set of unforeseen circumstances someone stepped forward to fund the project. There would be no need of a mortgage. God was urging us forward to trust Him. We bought the house. Five years later Jan married and her husband Des built the Annex for Mintie to live alongside. After his passing, with the property fully paid for, Mintie moved back into the main house, releasing the Annex for ministry to missionaries. Now after further developments our home is ready as a place of retreat, transformation and blessing to the Body of Christ. He inspired the “things hoped for” and “things seen in vision but not yet attained”. Because we set out by faith, faith in His faithfulness increased and increased. We are faith-full and must dispense the overflow of that faith to others! For sure faith has become preoccupied with hearing God through His Word.

**Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. NKJV**

* Please pray for the Autumn ministry season, that as we wait on the Lord we will know who, what and when. What has begun in faith, pray that it will also grow by faith and be defined by faith. We are full of excitement for what God will do in transforming His people.

**Mission visitors**

Next week we welcome **John and Nancy Rigstad**. With mutual mission connections in YWAM Lausanne, Switzerland we first met them in Romania in the 90’s, during the days when we travelled extensively in the motorhome, in Eastern Europe, pastorally supporting missionaries. They join us, **Wednesday 29 May – Saturday 1 June** for fellowship, catch-up and prayer.

From **30 June – 5 July,** we welcome **Gweno Hugh-Jones** a missionary based in Birmingham, UK for a ministry debriefing. Gweno has been journeying through many challenging changes with her mission and seeks a time to process some of the joys and highlights but also pain.

From **13 – 18 July,** we welcome **YWAMers Kim and Cindy Hunt**. We first met Kim and Cindy in Budapest, Hungary – again in the days when we travelled in the motorhome encouraging missionaries. They are coming to share their hearts, using us as a sounding board in what God is revealing to them. It will be a special reunion for sure!

From **23 – 29 September**, we welcome **Donna Cole an International Messengers** pastoral caregiver for a time of fellowship. Donna is arriving from the USA on route to Split, Croatia to help on a retreat for missionaries. She will return to us after the retreat, 10 – 14 October for a time of recovery and debriefing before flying home.

* Pray for each that they would meet with Jesus in a powerful way, find the comfort and enlightenment of His counsel and help, and be refreshed.
* Pray for us as we spiritually and physically prepare for each visit. Pray that as we focus on the personal welcome, we would also hear from the Lord Rhema words of encouragement and confirmation for each one.

**Help for others**

We continue to be in good communication with workers in Israel and remain open to pastorally visit as God leads. They will always special be in our hearts and remain the focus of loving intercessions. As we hear of needs we praise God that we are able, through the MDI (UK) fund, to send money to ease the pressure. The fund is not huge but it is like the “oil in the jar”. Recently we were able to help one worker with travel expenses because her mother became seriously ill back home in South Africa. One-off gifts relieve pressure on already stretched resources. We have also been able to financially help another missionary in South Africa who is battling cancer, and a retired YWAM missionary whose brother was seriously ill and needed immediate care. Ill-health always brings extra expenses.

So thank you for your financial support for both the ministry and for us personally. Pray that we will hear of those who MDI (UK) can bless and help. If you wish to share in the joy of blessing in this way visit our website, [www.makingdisciples.co.uk](http://www.makingdisciples.co.uk) to make a donation.

**Revelation 5:13 "Blessing and honour and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!" NKJV**