

Barrow's Buzz...

March 2021

Dear Friends...

We hope this finds you well?

As we near the end of the first quarter 2021 very little seems different to the close of 2020 although days are noticeably longer and signs of Spring are around. Likewise, little seems different at first glance with family and ministry... although seasons are changing...



We last mentioned (in November) that Gabby had not long arrived in the US and expected her to be there until just after Christmas. However, her return date has continued to be extended – partly due to UK lockdown and travel difficulties and partly because life in Florida seemed to have more to offer. Apart from dodging the long and dreary UK winter Gabby has been able to pass her US driving test, become qualified in scuba diving and is now supply teaching at two middle schools in the Tampa Bay area. The opportunity for classroom teaching exists several days a week most weeks, and interestingly while Gabby has been schooled in Zimbabwe, South Africa and the UK she has never experienced education in the US! Her adjustment to life in the US has been stretching at times but generally her background allows her to cope with transition relatively easily. Right now the plan is that she will return to the UK before mid-year, and it would be great if she could secure the right work option following her arrival.

Sacha and Kyle continue to do well... They have now relocated to the Bermondsey area of London which provides much easier connection for Kyle's work, and for Sacha's too except teaching has meant endless hours each day connecting with her class by computer. As of March 8th returning to the classroom will mark the first sign of emerging from lockdown and this small mark of progress is exciting! Kyle's online nutritious-eating company continues to eye further expansion into new parts of London with the prospect of him becoming more involved in oversight across several outlets in the near future.

Ben continues at the Royal London Hospital, Whitechapel. Michael continues under the government funded furlough scheme, with some early signs of revival for the audio/visual industry in London.

Even though present international travel restrictions would suggest a slow-down of the SIM UK ENGAGE programme, the recently increased UK quarantine regulations have in fact accelerated the arrival of two further ENGAGE workers. Near the beginning of February stricter measures were implemented for those arriving in the UK, particularly from the 30 red-listed countries. Use of designated quarantine hotels and further CV 19 testing during the 10-day period came with a hefty price-tag. Ram and Keshari had originally planned arrival on the wrong-side of these new measures, and although their journey did not originate from a red listed country coming at that time would have incurred further cost for two additional quarantine tests. Thankfully they were able to alter flights to arrive a few hours before the new measures were introduced, and have now completed their 10 days of quarantine. Please remember them as they move into a property, set up home, and begin to immerse themselves as part of the team in the strategic work at Rochdale.

Elkin and Nora's situation was less straight forward as they were due to depart a red-listed country - Colombia. Arriving before the new quarantine restrictions made sense as failure to do so would have possibly delayed their coming indefinitely... at least as long as the quarantine hotel ruling is in place. At the same time, it was unclear whether they would be allowed to travel or even enter the UK at all as they were originating from S. America. Their count-down to departure was a roller-coaster ride of uncertainty with clear advice unattainable. As Elkin said, 'we saw miracles happen during the last few days', and they arrived in the UK without setback with a few hours to spare before quarantine hotel regulations were implemented. Please pray for them as they setup housing and undergo transition to life and ministry in London. Their eleven-year old son will also be attending school when they open on March 8th.

During the next few weeks SIM UK will be providing online orientation for Ram and Keshari, Elkin and Nora and Mary who has been in the UK since November. Even though Mary's work and ministry at a central London church has been affected by the Lockdown, she has kept remarkably busy and become a vital part of the Church staff as it reaches out to surrounding

multi-ethnic communities. Please pray for her as the scenery shifts once again, and face to face and small group meetings become a reality.

Lawrence and Elizabeth's situation has progressed but is now paused... At the beginning of February, just as hotel quarantine measures were introduced their support had reached sufficient percentage to allow work on their UK visa to begin. However, their eventual arrival in Glasgow, Scotland would mean that isolation in a hotel would have been mandatory as Scotland's policy applied to all countries, and not just the 30 red-list countries specified in England. So, work on their visa application has been paused as use of quarantine hotels would not be financially feasible. It is uncertain how long these arrival measures will be in place for but please pray that as churches are allowed to function more normally, so their arrival would become a reality. The Jah's involvement in the cross cultural aims of the church is vital and strategic. Lawrence and Elizabeth will be joining with the ENGAGE team for orientation anyway.

Praise and Prayer Points...

- ⇒ Pray for Gabby as she fills-in as a supply teacher in the Tampa Bay area. Also for her eventual return to the UK and an emerging sense of direction.
- ⇒ Pray for Sacha and Kyle for the various opportunities and challenges before them.
- ⇒ Pray for Ben and Michael in their current situations.
- ⇒ Pray for Ram and Keshari, in their adjustment to life and ministry in Rochdale. Give thanks they were able to arrive without complication.
- ⇒ Pray for Elkin and Nora, for their transition to London and the schooling need that exists.
- ⇒ Pray for Mary, for opportunities to build trust-filled relationships in which she can talk about Jesus.

Tricia and Tim have just enjoyed a week of staycation. The weather was surprisingly good for the UK in February and allowed us to begin to tick-off the list of work in the garden and around the house... although somehow the list never seems to shorten? The change of pace was both welcome and overdue.

We look forward to a time when we can visit churches and reacquaint with many of you who continue to care. As ever, we thank you for your partnership which makes possible the important work of ENGAGE – bringing gospel workers to the UK to help resource the local church in reaching surrounding multi-ethnic communities with God's truth.

WITH OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE

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