

tearfund CONNECTED CHURCH: Update from Nepal

After the amazing visit from the CCW team to Nepal who spent time with the partner team here is the latest update from the country.

Greetings from Pokhara Once again let us express our thanks to you for all your prayers and support. It is our pleasure to write to you and share what has been happening in Nepal and in our work recently.

A STABLE GOVERNMENT: Nepal is now fully established as a federal democratic republic with secular values. At all levels, from the federal level down to the local government, representatives have been elected and government bodies are functioning. Their presence is particularly noticed at local levels where there has been a gap for many years. Elected officials at each levels have been putting all their efforts into formulating and introducing lots of new policies and guidelines. The majority coalition government, made up of the two largest communist parties of Nepal, is now focused on providing good, stable governance to fulfil the mandate they gained in the election. Hopefully, this will be sustainable and will lead the country towards prosperity.

The following are highlights from the work over the last few months: They conducted three Sangsangai workshops in Bardiya and Kailali in August. A total of 49 new facilitators from 29 churches (including 12 churches new to the programme) took part in the training. Between workshops, field officers Kalpana (who the CCW team met) and Khim, together with the Sangsangai coordinators, have been following up with partner churches regularly, to ensure the Bible study classes are going well.

Thanks to the previous training about local government planning processes, some more partner churches successfully applied to their local level governments for funding. This allowed them to start projects, like building a boundary wall, that they would not have been able to fund themselves.

Meetings were held at the central office in Pokhara for their executive board, management team and for staff to share what they were learning. It was an important time, where annual targets and achievements for the project were discussed.

The General Assembly (similar to an AGM) was held on the 2nd September and a new group of board members were elected to oversee the project for the next two years.



(top) A Bible study group taking part in Sangsangai (bottom) Training on local government planning processes (right) Sangsangai Facilitators working in groups during training (PHOTOS Sagoal/Tearfund)

MAJOR LEARNING

Some of our partner churches are reaching the point in the Sangsangai process where they are beginning to look at engaging and working with their local communities. We are learning in this project, that it can take time for local churches to gain the confidence to step out into the community and work together with them.

PLEASE PRAY

- On the 2nd September, nine new members were selected to the Board of Trustees. Please pray for God's knowledge and wisdom as they lead the work.
- We are currently training 49 new facilitators from 17 existing churches, and 12 new churches, to ensure the Sangsangai process is properly facilitated. Please pray that the Sangsangai process would be more effective as the new facilitators are trained up.
- The second year of this Sangsangai project is now complete, which means the coming financial year will be the last of the current project. Do pray for the team as they work to support partner churches in completing the process.



Street & School Pastors

A new Co-ordinator has been appointed to lead the work, Laurie Searle, so remember Laurie in your prayers. Praise God for enabling us to quickly form a good relationship with the new headteacher at Rhosnessni High. Praise God for increased financial income in 2018 with ongoing prayer for wisdom and provision as we address the ongoing challenge of adequately financing the charity.

Good News Foundation Hungary

Kori and Sylvi will visit the UK for a retreat and rest in early August. They will be staying with Russ & Lesley and **will visit CCW on Sunday August 5th** after an overnight stay with Gareth and Jean. Russ & Lesley are visiting GNF in October for one month and Moira is likely to visit with a schools and prophetic art team in November.



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Later in 2018 we will be hosting Szabina Varga, a 24 year old Hungarian physiotherapist, who is part of the Upper Room Movement. She will be arriving on November 6th for a 3 month period and she will serve as a volunteer at CCW and also in a few town wide compassion ministries in Wrexham.

Pray for rest and recharging for Kori during his visit.

Pray that all the arrangements for the planned visits to GNF will go smoothly and for the health and strength of those travelling.

FUNDATIA INCREDEREA (FI):

Summer Camps

The teenagers camp is nearly upon us with 54 young people booked to attend the camp between July 1st and 7th in Buteni some 100 kms from Oradea. A huge thank you to everyone in CCW who has contributed financially to allow so many to attend. There is the younger childrens' camp to come in August so there is still time to contribute and the kids attending the second camp will all come from really poor families so any donations will be greatly welcome. Why do we feel that the camps are so important?

Here is a very recent message from Ligia Popoviciu: "One day I was thinking about how can we be relevant for this generation of young people. I was praying and God surprised me the next day. I received a message from a young man that was in the Camp with us 5 years ago. Now he works in London. He wrote me a long message saying how God changed his life through our camp and through us. It was a miracle for me to see the answer from God so clear and so prompt. God wants

all these young people to know Him and it is His work not ours. We are just instruments in His powerful hands. During the 10 years since we organised such camps I saw many, many miracles and many life changed for better. God is great!"

Prayer pointers

Wisdom and perseverance for Nelu, Cristina, Ligia and the other leaders in their preparation for the camp

Protection during the transport to / from, and for the duration of the camp

Health of the leaders and the teenagers during the camp

That lives will be changed through the work and words of the camp



Life at the Foodbank remains busy. We now have our first paid employee who will be well known to you!

Sally Ellinson is the Project Manager / Co-ordinator

responsible for the day to day running of the Foodbank. With 6 different volunteer rotas together with over 100 referral agencies to deal with she is not idle in her part-time role. The funding for this post is only for 6 months in the first instance **so please pray that we can secure sustainable funding beyond this.** The Trussell Trust, who are our umbrella organization, have recently announced a

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collaboration with ASDA who will put in over 9 million pounds to Foodbanks over the next 3 years to ensure just such sustainability so there is potential there. We also now have a permanent collection trolley in ASDA Wrexham to add to the bins in Tesco and Sainsburys. Here is a summary of our recent activity.

During 2017-18, 2013 three-day food parcels were given out by Wrexham Foodbank feeding 4252 people, including 1292 children and all the food (over 33,000kg) was donated by members of the public. But the Foodbank does a lot more than just provide food parcels to those in crisis?

Befriending and Signposting: Everyone who is referred to the Foodbank is welcomed by volunteers who have been trained to sit with them and listen and signpost to further help wherever possible. We want to help deal with the root causes of poverty and encourage people to make steps on their journey forwards. The Foodbank works closely with over a hundred referral agencies in the area including the Job Centre, the Council, schools, churches and many local charities.

Eat Well Spend Less: This is a completely free six week course in basic cooking and money management skills. It is run by Foodbank volunteers for participants from local groups who feel they would benefit. School Holiday Meals: Wrexham Foodbank partners with the Church in Wales to provide food for school children in Caia Park in the school holidays.

Energy Bank: Organisations such as Dee Valley Water, Groundwork and NEST provide advice at our Foodbank. We also may be able to help those who are customers of Scottish Power and are struggling with their fuel bills.

Toiletries: Many people donate toiletries as well as food and so these are available for those in need. We have also partnered with a local project called WINGS (Women In Need Getting Support) offering sanitary products.

Baby Essentials: For groups working with parents who are struggling to provide nappies and other baby essentials we have donations to distribute as requested.

Pet Food: A small amount of dog and cat food is donated and given out as requested.

Christmas Hampers: Every December the Foodbank receives approximately 350 referrals for Christmas food parcels which are assembled, wrapped and given out in the run up to Christmas.

Campaigning: Wrexham Foodbank contributes data to The Trussell Trust who work with politicians and policy makers to try and improve the lives of everyone in the UK.

MARTINA AND TONY IN TURKEY

Greetings from Ankara. Summer holiday has started, but summer hasn't quite arrived yet. We still get showers most days. This coming Sunday there will be general elections. Please keep praying for this country, for God's purposes to be fulfilled.

Over the last years we've been fortunate to get our residence permits renewed without major problems, staying on a tourist visa. Right now the system is being tightened up. On his appointment with the immigration office Tony was told he cannot apply for a tourist visa again, he needs a reason to stay here.

Options are studying or finding a job. He's been given 30 days to come up with something. Some language courses can supply a 1 year visa. This is a feasible option as Tony has been doing Turkish classes over the last months anyway.

Another option might be teaching English conversational classes. Please pray for doors to open and something to work out that immigration will accept. The deadline is July 6th.

Martina's appointment for residence permit renewal is coming up July 17th. There might be similar issues, and the hope it can be resolved by Tony securing his residence permit, and Martina also being covered by it. With this situation, our summer plans are up in the air. It looks like we won't get to the UK before the end of August.

Otherwise we continue in our ministries, Tony with refugee work, Arabic fellowship and one-to-one Bible study/discipleship, Martina with counselling, prayer ministry and the revision of the Journey Group material (we are working on session 12 right now, so almost there!) Love and greetings,

Martina and Tony

More from Tony on FB:

June 24th: Church flooded to waist height!

June 27th: They (immigration) are asking for a form from our landlady ... who lives 10 hours drive away ...she was going to come here but now has an issue which means she can't come for the next 2 weeks. Going to immigration office to discuss and praying for way ahead... one without unnecessary obstacles!

TONY ON FACEBOOK:

May 27th: One last group of refugees that are worth mentioning. Iranians have been crossing the border for many years and are present all over Turkey. Many are either believers when they arrive or come to faith here. The country is full of Iranians who could potentially be a huge influence for this country and beyond.

June 7th: Day of prayer for Turkey was followed by regular fasting day on 10 year fast. Both left me feeling that we can expect a lot more from God in these regions in the future than we have ever seen in the past. Those who pray should know that this is not the time to give up but to see breakthrough in the very near future in the M East, Central Asia, North Africa and wherever a name other than the One above is named.

June 23rd: Elections tomorrow! May the best possible result for the all in the country a government that pursues the best and is open to every beneficial thing for the nation (a desire that He who knows every heart appoints people accordingly)

June 24th: Talked about defining vision at team meeting. This fitted with a general sense of God asking me to define more clearly what I am here for.

June 25th: So the language school says get a document from the immigration office who say you have to get it from where you are studying!!!

June 27th: School accepts they will provide document for visa; this seems the best immediate route to take..... need to work on more permanent solutions but praying the language course will be an immediately acceptable reason to stay.