

Dear Friends,

Our warm greetings to you all. We trust that you are all able to enjoy this glorious time of spring with its hope, new life and beauty, amidst so much tragedy, heart-ache and battle for truth.

With our thanks and love,

David and Margie

The **Thanksgiving service** for David's father was a special celebration of a life spent faithfully serving his faithful God and Saviour. Many family and friends travelled (one from the States) to be with the close family and it was so good meeting up again. It is just a shame that we often only meet at matches and dispatches! The Taiwanese and Paiwanese URC church, sent 2 inspiring video messages. On one of them a choir of full-time church workers, beautifully and very movingly sang in Paiwanese, 'What a Friend we have in Jesus'.

We are so grateful for a really inspiring and memorable **time in Italy** with Margie's sister and brother-in-law: one week in the north exploring some of Margie's father's 'haunts' during WW2, (thanks to the huge kindness of the 'Friends of the Partisans' group), and one further south visiting Pompeii, Herculaneum and Vesuvius. There is so much to process from both weeks.

We joined the family last Sunday for a significant and very enjoyable day. Finally, at the age of nearly 3, **Sophia was dedicated** to God at the Sunday service. We pray daily that she, with Harvey, will accept Jesus' love and in turn, be enthusiastic to share it with others.

Salomi, one of the joint leaders in Guinea-Bissau, finally got a visa for Germany. She is now spending a month there, visiting friends and supporting churches, before travelling on to Indonesia for some months of a *much-needed* home leave. **Margarida**, her co-leader, has just returned from Brazil, having had knee surgery and is holding the fort. They would both love prayer, please.

Our folk in **Chad** report that it is very hot now and life is tiring. We are praying that post-Ramadan, there will be new openings to build relationships with strategic conversations, that will bring changed lives.

Looking ahead this month:

- this week we, with others, are **both involved in different events** in celebrating the end of Ramadan (Eid) and Easter with our Muslim friends. Men have been invited to a meal on Wednesday and ladies to a party on Thursday. We pray, that alongside friendship and food, Jesus will be able to reveal Himself to these folk.
- **our church** has planned a fun event for the Friday of the Jubilee weekend, which we pray will result in good contacts, as well as much fun. A guest service is then being planned for Sun.12.

- we have the privilege of catching up with and sharing at a supporting church in Taunton, giving several talks at different events and teaching (Holiness and our Identity in Christ) on a Short term Candidate Orientation for ACTS 13: a Nigerian man is sensing God's leading to work in Guinea-Bissau. We also look forward to meeting up with friends and family.

Praise

- Such a good Thanksgiving service, time in Italy and Sophia's dedication

Prayer

- Salomi on home leave and Margarida in Guinea-Bissau, trusting also for continued good healing for her knee; God's presence and leading during the Annual Church Assembly, taking place this week
- Grace and enabling for the Chad Branch and important opportunities
- the 2 celebrations with our Muslim friends (Margie is giving the short Gospel message on Thurs)
- preparation for and sharing at different events:
 - May 17 with the Retirees; 22 at St James' Taunton and during the last week the 2 sessions for the CO
- our church outreach into the community