

Dear Friends,

I'm not sure how to go about keeping in touch with you all now that Isa is not part of things. I certainly don't want to impose myself upon anyone therefore please let me know if you no longer wish to receive letters like this. Friends that have prayed for us for these many years mean a lot to me and I don't want to lose contact with you all but please let me know if you would rather not receive my "newsletters."

I have just returned home after teaching a class at our European training centre known as North Cotes College. I really enjoyed the time there. You may be wondering what goes on at the college. The training offered there is designed to equip those who wish to take the gospel to people who have never heard. That usually involves speaking to people who have very different world views from our own and so the teaching prepares people to take Bible lessons across cultural and linguistic boundaries.

As believers, we have the privilege and responsibility to pass on the teaching that Jesus gave to his first disciples. To do this we must become good communicators. When sharing the gospel with someone, we may know what we want to tell them, but we have no idea how they are hearing what we say to them. For example, when talking about God, we think of a Creator of infinite wisdom, power and love but how are people who have never thought of a being like this going to think about our words? We had that problem in the Pawaia when the people assumed that, when we spoke of this most important person, we were speaking about the most important person in their legends – an immoral person who brought all the evil into their world! It is obvious that this had to be corrected and taught clearly. What is not so obvious is that people in our own western cultures may have equally mistaken ideas of who we are talking about when we use the word "God." In our day, when many people around us are Biblically illiterate, we will need to carefully explain who we mean when we use the word "God." It is things like this that are taught in our training centre. That involves teaching about language and culture study as well as making sure our views of scripture are correct and well thought out. That, in brief, is what I have had a small part in over the last ten years.



However, it has been made clear that there would be other opportunities for me to be involved in that training programme. The staff there have shared with me some of the ways in which I could contribute to the different modules taught there. I am seriously thinking of taking up this challenge and would invite you to pray with me about this. I am not so young as I used to be and realise I have to recognise my limitations. However, being with the younger people who take the courses, proves to be invigorating and encouraging and so makes the prospect that much more inviting! I could also move and live at the college, or to the local area,

and that would mean selling the home here in Cumbria so that is another thing to pray about please. The thought of such a big change is rather overwhelming and I only want what the Lord wants for me in these matters so please pray.

Well, that's enough about me for now. I do hope that things are going well for you. I try to pray for all the people I can remember but I'm sure I forget some. However, the Lord never forgets. He cares for all his children, so I commit you all to his safe keeping until we meet again.

Yours because of God's grace, Jack Douglas