



## Greetings...

Dear Praying Friends,

We are always grateful for those who uphold us in prayer. It is a great encouragement to know that in the busy-ness of service for the Lord, there are those who take time to remember us in prayer.

## Hindrances...

From the autumn of last year the car was in and out of the garage as they tried to diagnose problems with it. After weeks of difficulties, and a second opinion, it was deemed to have major engine failure and would need to be replaced. As you can imagine, this was a headache! Then, finding a suitable replacement proved difficult and time-consuming. Yet the words of Proverbs 3:5-6 are true in every situation, *'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths'*. So, through a combination of using rental cars, Fiona's car, and some creative thinking, every engagement was met - for which we give thanks. Thankfully, a suitable car has now been found and hindrances gone!

## 'Please, please, please...'

As many of you realise, I have the privilege of leading regular schools assemblies locally. Over the 20+ years I have done these, a good rapport has been developed. At 10:45pm one evening I had an email from a local Head-Teacher, *'Please, please, please can you come and do another assembly for us. We appreciate you are busy and this is very short-notice, but we are in the middle of an inspection and have been criticised for a recent in-house assembly. The staff have asked me to contact you to see if you could come and show the inspectors what you do regularly'* - How could I refuse? Not only was this another gospel opportunity, it shows that they are not embarrassed to have an evangelical Christian come to the school. Off I went the next morning and did what I always do (*teaching and applying a Bible story, praying with them, followed by a quiz*). The staff were grateful and the inspectors were impressed by the regular school assemblies. As I walked to the car, the secretary ran after me to give me a box of chocolates as a 'thank you'!

## Albania...

When Fiona visited some of the missionaries supported by AEM last year, she discovered there was a desire to commence (and in some cases, re-commence) open-air work. Fiona was asked, *'Do you know anyone who could come and train us in open-air evangelism?'*. Fiona's reply? *'Funnily enough, I do know someone...'* So, a trip was squeezed into the diary. Not only was the trip to Albania an opportunity for me to 'put faces to names', and see works that we have been praying for first-hand, it was an opportunity to help and encourage open-air work here.



## JP's Prayer Diary

### May

6 <sup>th</sup>		'Teach & Go', Peja, Kosova
7 <sup>th</sup>	AM&PM	Rruga e Paqes Church, Peja, Kosova
14 <sup>th</sup>	AM	Bethel Baptist Church, Holywell
14 <sup>th</sup>	PM	Rhosneigr Evangelical Church
15 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup>		Tissington Well Dressings
17 <sup>th</sup>		OAM Committee Meeting, Solihull
21 <sup>st</sup>	AM	Leek Baptist Church
25 <sup>th</sup> - 30 <sup>th</sup>		Holiday

### June

1 <sup>st</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup>		Holiday
4 <sup>th</sup>	AM	Bible Baptist Church, Barre, VT, USA
18 <sup>th</sup>	AM&PM	Glanrafon Evangelical Church
21 <sup>st</sup>		OAM Committee Prayer Meeting
27 <sup>th</sup>	PM	Ebenezer Evangelical Church, Bangor - Prayer Mtg

### July

2 <sup>nd</sup>	AM&PM	Ebenezer Evangelical Church, Bangor
5 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup>		Llangollen International Eisteddfod Outreach
19 <sup>th</sup>		OAM Committee Meeting
29 <sup>th</sup> - 31 <sup>st</sup>		Tenby Beach Mission
6 <sup>th</sup>	PM	Zion Free Church, Pembroke Dock

### August

1 <sup>st</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>		Tenby Beach Mission
12 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup>		EMW Aber Conference - OA's & Missions Exhibition
27 <sup>th</sup>	AM&PM	Kirkby Stephen Evangelical Church

*Please note: this list is not exhaustive. Some services, meetings and activities were arranged after this prayer diary was published.  
Plus OAM responsibilities as Field Operations Manager,  
along with open-air work and regular school assemblies on Anglesey and in Bangor.  
Names used are changed to protect the person's anonymity.*



Libonik Evangelical Church hosted the first training sessions which were also attended by some other local churches. These were followed by open-air in three local villages that they operate in. Villagers gathered in to listen and received literature. In the village of Sovjan, some from the open-air came to the village church I preached in on the Lord's Day. The training sessions were very well attended and it was thrilling to see local men preaching for the first time. Another 'Teach & Go' session took place in Gorre, hosted by the local evangelical church and attended by others. Please pray that what has been kindled will continue.

## Fiona writes...

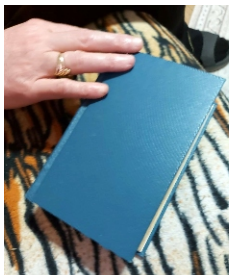
Our last prayer letter included a comment on my previous visit to Kosova and Albania. I can do one better this time as I am writing this looking out onto the sunny Albanian countryside. It has been particularly encouraging to have JP join me on this trip. It's been another busy but productive visit and we have been able to spend meaningful time catching up with our brothers and sisters here in the Western Balkans.

I have been particularly struck during this visit about the lack of men, of all ages, in the church. 'Religion' is culturally seen as something good for women and children but 'real' men don't need it. Please pray that there would be men in the churches here who would be equipped and burdened to go out to reach their fellow Albanian men with the gospel.

Although we have become increasingly aware of Albanian migrants in the UK, perhaps what we don't naturally consider is the effect this migration has on the communities, and therefore churches, left behind. The population movement, in Albania especially, is astonishing. Germany, Sweden, and other Schengen area countries are popular with Albanians seeking work abroad. The magnitude of emigration is such that the median age in Albania has increased by two years in just the last 12 months. An unstable population makes for unstable churches. Those who are saved and join the churches here usually do not remain in the locality for more than a few years. This, combined with the very few men in the churches, leaves us wondering where the next generation of church members and church leaders will come from?

### The last Bible?

It was a tremendous privilege to meet Monda Treska, in Korçë, Albania, for the first time during this trip. Monda and her husband Nico came to know the Lord in the late 1980s through the witness of Nico's cousin, Kristaqi. The communist regime of the time meant that any evangelism was undertaken at great personal risk. Nevertheless, Kristaqi and his friend, who were decorators by trade, would sing hymns as they went about their work. While painting in Nico and Monda's house they sang, 'What a friend we have in Jesus'. Over time, as Kristaqi witnessed to them, Nico and Monda were saved. They were able to read what was possibly the last New Testament remaining in circulation. The believers would hide this precious book and pass it around secretly. When communism fell, Nico and Monda served the Lord with an energetic zeal for evangelism and love for the lost. Nico went to be with his Saviour a few years ago. Please pray for our dear sister Monda as her health now makes it difficult for her to gather with other believers in church. Praise God that He builds His church and He is the one who says, 'Yet I have set my King on my holy hill of Zion' (Psalm 2:6).



**JP Earnest**

Field Operations Manager

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## Fiona's Prayer Diary

### May

1<sup>st</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>

Visiting Albania & Kosova

10<sup>th</sup>

Belvidere Road Church, Liverpool

11<sup>th</sup>

*Ebenezer Evangelical, Bangor - Ladies' Bible Study*

16<sup>th</sup>

Bethel Chapel Clapham, Yorkshire

17<sup>th</sup>

Shrewsbury Evangelical Church

18<sup>th</sup>

*Ebenezer Evangelical, Bangor - Ladies' Bible Study*

24<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>

*Holiday*

### June

1<sup>st</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>

*Holiday*

21<sup>st</sup>

Pershore Evangelical Church

22<sup>nd</sup>

AEM Trustees meeting, Catshill

22<sup>nd</sup>

Low Ham Chapel

27<sup>th</sup>

Ebenezer Evangelical Church, Bangor - *Report*

### July

4<sup>th</sup>

Alfred Place Baptist Church, Aberystwyth

5<sup>th</sup>

Rhosneigr Evangelical Church - Ladies' meeting

10<sup>th</sup>

Friarn Chapel, Bridgwater

11<sup>th</sup>

Honiton Evangelical Church

12<sup>th</sup>

Salford Community Church

13<sup>th</sup>

Galmpton Congregational Church

13<sup>th</sup>

Ladyfield Evangelical Church

29<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>

*OAM Beach Mission, Tenby*

30<sup>th</sup>

Bryn Moriah Evangelical Church, Cynnwyl Elfed

### August

1<sup>st</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>

*OAM Beach Mission, Tenby*

9<sup>th</sup>

Cephas Presbyterian Church, Merthyr Tydfil

12<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>

EMW Aberystwyth Conference

*Italics denote non-AEM meetings*

*Please note, this list is not exhaustive. Some meetings and activities are arranged after this prayer diary is published*



### Locally...

Although the youth group in our church did not recommence in the end, I do have the privilege of meeting regularly to study the Bible with a younger lady in the church. We are encouraged each week as we consider Exodus together. Please continue to pray for those who we have previously had contact with through the English Classes and Conversation Cafe. I'm tentatively planning a trip to East Asia next year to try to visit some of these women. Many thanks for your faithfulness in prayer for us, we are so very grateful.

**AEM**  
Albanian Evangelical Mission

**Fiona Earnest**

UK Deputation & Communications Officer

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