

# Acre insight

Autumn 2018



*Rural Portugal*

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# President's Page

## Harvest Blessings

It has been a busy summer for all of our missionaries in Europe and Brazil. We are grateful that by social media we have immediate updates of what is happening in various locations; churches being founded in North East Brazil, lives surrendered to the Lord in Amazonas, many young people converted at Camp Sonshine in Portugal and God's blessings on the camp in Lanzarote. Added to these developments, new doors are opening in needy areas with excellent opportunities for the Gospel. You have been praying that the Lord of the harvest would send labourers to bring in His harvest. Already, the Lord is calling some young people for these open doors. Continue to pray for their support and guidance.

In recent months we have lost several great colleagues of the Mission's work in Brazil:

**Tom Barkley:** Tom and his twin brother Bill, are from Slaght, between Ballymena and Randalstown. Both brothers were faithful and generous co-workers with all the Acre missionaries for many years. The Mission bought the Barkley's home in Manaus to be our Mission's HQ and today it houses the Hebron Theological Seminary. Bill and Mary Barkley have been serving the Lord in Brazil since 1958 and still continue in their publishing work in Sao Paulo. Tom went to be with the Lord at the end of May this year and is survived by his wife Florence and daughter Mary Elizabeth Cooke. We give thanks to the Lord for these faithful colleagues.

**Dona Sefinha from Campo Redondo:** When James and Dorrie Gunning went to North East Brazil to open a work for God, Dona Sefinha provided a home for them. Sefinha had worked for the Catholic Church until her conversion in 1935. Although she suffered much persecution back in those days, the Lord sustained her and answered her prayers by sending missionaries to her town decades later. She remained a close friend to all the missionaries until the Lord took her home in her 101st year. If a cup of cold water will not lose its reward, think of what it means to provide a home for God's servants. We thank God for this great lady.

**Pastor Jose Carlos:** Pastor Jose is the Field Leader for our Mission's work in Brazil. He had a very successful liver-transplant over fifteen years ago during which time he has led a full life. He has recently been diagnosed with some cardiac problems that need attention. We ask you to pray for him and his wife, Eurides.

**Dr Bill Woods** has a date for his surgery - 6th September - and will have a series of treatment after that.

**Victor Maxwell**

Victor Maxwell's latest Devotional Book is available from the mission office  
priced £12.00 including post and package

# *Returning Home...*

## Aroldo & Emmanuelle Areas, Santo Andre, Portugal

Because of its geographic location and its various petrol-related companies, Santo Andre has always been a town with people coming and going. Yet when the 2008 crisis hit us, many lost their jobs and were forced to find employment elsewhere, most of the time in a different country.

As a church, between 2008 and 2011 we saw 22 members moving away as they sought employment in various parts of the world.



Yet this year, we were happy to see 8 of them coming back home!

Some of you might remember Sonia who, for years, had to battle with spiritual problems. She and her daughter went to Mozambique in 2011. Unfortunately, Mozambique has become quite a dangerous place to live so Sonia decided it was time to move back to Portugal, since the economic situation (and the education) had improved. Sonia continues to be on fire for the Lord, she serves in the church with her daughter and she is now a new member of Santo Andre church. It is a blessing to have welcomed them back again. There is another family that came back to church after leaving Portugal for a while. Fernando, Tania and their 4 children moved away to work in France during the crisis. Before going away seven years ago, they were very involved in the worship team, playing instruments and singing in our church. They also helped with whatever needed to be done in church but when they left there was a big gap left behind. At the end of May, they also returned to Portugal and to the church and back to the worship team. How blessed we are to have them back again with us.

We have also had unsaved people who have been attending regularly. Please pray for two Venezuelan ladies (Jaqueline and Elizabeth) and a young lad (Pedro).

Most of you may be aware of the dramatic situation that Venezuela is going through at the moment. Because of this many Venezuelans are leaving their country. Not long ago we were able to help two ladies from Venezuela. They are not Christians and have suffered abuse from a lot of religions. Santo Andre's church has been a tremendous help to them and they are starting to see the real love of God being displayed around believers. They cannot understand how people can be so nice to them, even if they don't know them.

Emmanuelle and I already had the opportunity to witness to them but they remain a bit reluctant because of their past experience with different religions. We are therefore ministering to them, showing them God's love and we now ask you to join us in prayer for their salvation. I have no doubt that God has a deliverance plan for them. They have just arrived, they may go to another part of Portugal or even outside the country but, for now, Santo Andre's church has been a family to them. Whether they stay or go, God's Word has been shared with them. The work in Santo Andre has its ups and downs but the truth is a lot of people have been touched with God's work here.

That is why churches exist everywhere to make a difference in the life of all those who come and go. Jesus said to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel". Thank you for standing faithfully with us in prayer and support.



# With God All Things Are Possible....

## Barry & Raquel Henry, Algarve, Portugal

The summer has kicked in and it is making up for lost ground over the last couple of days. It was great to have had the cooler weather during the 3 weeks of summer camp and it was a blessed time. It also was an answer to prayer as we saw many campers this year from the more local areas coming for the first time even though we had done no advertising this year!

The Portuguese side of the work continues on and we are grateful for all

God has done over the last year with the Portuguese community. We have had some new couples and families join the group and have become involved in both the worship side and the Sunday school side of things. It is great to have more people getting involved and using their talents for the Kingdom. The last time I wrote, I mentioned an African gentleman named Gino who has been coming to our meetings over the last months. He made a decision for Christ and has been attending both the Sunday meetings and the Bible studies. He has a lot of questions, so I would ask for prayer for him as he embarks on His walk with Christ.

We plan to start a men's Bible study on a Thursday morning with some of the brothers from the church. Pray it may also be another opportunity for reflection and discussion and an opportunity to deepen our bonds in Christ.

Most of you know that Raquel was trying to apply for a fixed position closer to home as she had been placed an hour from the house which, while was beneficial for her prayer life, as she likes to say, it was a long distance to travel each day. Recently we found out that she has now been placed full-time in Quarteira which is only fifteen minutes from the house! We were delighted with the news and praise God for His providence. But that was not the end of the story, as it was confirmed from the 4th of August, Raquel will now be working with COMACEP which is tied in with the Evangelical Alliance without losing her full-time post as she will still be paid by the ministry of education. It is coordinated by a brother called Samuel Resina, who had told Raquel that he would like her to be involved with the team as the previous co-worker was leaving. Samuel has the responsibility of making sure that schools in the region have the option of giving Evangelical religious education as an extra-curricular subject. Because of the timing of application, Raquel had been told that it may not happen this year as the closing date for applicants had expired. Well with God all things are possible. The education board accepted the application which means for the next academic year, Raquel will be working alongside Samuel, placing teachers in schools to teach the Bible and also to be involved in helping develop the network as well as giving support to teachers. It is a new challenge for her but she is delighted with the post, albeit a little nervous! Please continue to pray for her as she embarks on this project and that in all things God is glorified. We continue to thank God for each of you and your support for us as a family.



# Amazon Adventure

## Brazil Team July 2018

Psalm 115:1 - *'Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!'*

On Sunday 1st July, about 5000 miles stood between the three of us (Keith, Peter and I) and Manaus - little did we know of all of the complications that lay ahead of us. However, after a delay, a missed flight (Not our fault), a sleepover in London Heathrow and a detour through Miami, we eventually touched down in Manaus. Relieved, exhausted and in desperate need of a shower we arrived at the home of Wilma and Mario De Souza and what a warm welcome we received! It was such a joy to be met with hugs and to be reunited with our fourth team member - Jeff - who had flown out from Lisbon a couple of days earlier.

The next morning we made our way down into the 'IBEE' school where we were met with many smiling faces such as that of Sulamita (principal), Kelly, Alex and plenty of children of course. Jeff had the opportunity to teach a couple of English classes and we were blessed to be able to teach the Bible lesson in the morning assembly over the next few days. It was incredible to be able to witness the children reciting passages from the Bible that they had been taught and we can pray that as they grow older and move on from the school that the Word of God would remain hidden in their hearts. Another day was spent down in the market. It's just full of life with so much fruit and many different fish but more importantly, we were able to spend some time with the Acre Missionary Raimundo distributing literature and talking to the many people who go there.

It was good to be able to see some of the beautiful sights of Amazonas when we were there. We also were able to have some fellowship with Samuel and Noabe Poots from Northern Ireland, who work with New tribes Mission in Acre. A boat trip on the Amazon river where we saw the meeting of the waters, some very friendly monkeys (who really took a liking to Keith for some reason...), lily pads and an abundance of different wildlife. We were also able to swim with the 'botos' (aka 'pink dolphins') in the river and experience an Indian tribe who gave us a very warm welcome indeed! It really was the best fun I've ever had!

A relaxing couple of days was then met with a busy programme of meeting for the next couple of weeks. Keith, Peter and Jeffrey spent Saturday morning at a 'Pastors breakfast' with Pastors from churches across Manaus where they spoke of the history and ongoing work of Acre Gospel Mission. In the afternoon we visited 'Oanse' (a children's club in Hebron) and aside from all of the exciting games, it was even more exciting to see so many children and young people under the sound of God's Word. Likewise, it was also fantastic to visit and take part in the Sunday

school at Hebron church. During the next two evenings, we visited the church of Pastor Podoroso: Keith preached, a couple of us gave our testimonies and it was another opportunity to share of the ongoing work of the mission, not just in Brazil, but in Portugal and Lanzarote also with the help of Fred Orr who translated. We even sang a song in Portuguese...or rather tried our best to anyway! We were able to do this again at various churches throughout the week. Fred Orr invited us to come and speak at Seminary another evening, another fantastic



opportunity to tell the students about the mission and also to share about the various teams that go to Portugal and Lanzarote throughout the year.

Out of all that we experienced in Brazil, I know that for me personally my fondest memories are of a little place called 'Bairro Novo'. There, Sulamita, Cesar and Edinalva run the 'Clube de Crianças, Jesus me ama' which in English is the 'Jesus loves me children's club'. They sing songs, learn memory verses and I have never seen such an impressive sword drill! One week, I taught of how Jesus is the 'Bread of Life' through the story of Him feeding the five thousand and the next week, Peter really engaged the children in using Jelly Babies to teach them the Gospel message all with the help of Jeff Ferguson translating. It was truly a joy and privilege to teach those children the 'Good News' of what God has done for each one of them through His Son the Lord Jesus and a great encouragement to hear of a little girl who gave her life to Jesus the year before. In the midst of 'Bairro Novo', we pray that God would use this little club to speak to and save these children, their parents and the entire community.

In our second week, we visited the other 'IBEE' school in a place at Flores. We ran a club there for the morning and we were blessed to have many children who came even though they had just got off school for their holidays. They loved singing, competing against one another in the quiz and eating all the sweets we brought however, they listened very intently to how Jesus fed the five thousand and with the help of Peter, were able to recite John 6:35 - 'Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." The following week, we were also thankful to have access into a public school where we taught the same Bible lesson to three different classes. We pray that every child we met would come to realise that Jesus really is the only One who can satisfy their deepest need: the need to have their sins forgiven.

Between the 13th and 15th of July was the missionary conference at Hebron church and it certainly was a busy few days. Keith preached each night as well as the Sunday morning however, over the course of the three days we heard from two other missionaries - Pastor Rafael Barra who works in Venezuela and also Pastor Eder Bruce who works in a place North East Brazil. On the Sunday night, we also had the opportunity to share of the work of Acre Gospel Mission and it was such a blessing to be part of the conference – On Monday night Hebron church had a dinner for everyone and aside from all of the delicious food, it was a wonderful time of fellowship and they very kindly gave gifts to each of the visiting missionary speakers and made the four of us feel like royalty!

The next day it was time to say goodbye and we give God thanks that our journey home went much more smoothly. Truthfully, before going to Manaus, I had no idea what to expect. I was excited yet I felt so small and inadequate and nervous. Manaus has a population of around three million; we were only a team of four. The language is Portuguese; three out of four of us could just about say 'Bom Dia'. So many are so poor; how could we ever convince them that all this world's treasure is loss compared to knowing Jesus? There is drug abuse, alcohol abuse, relationship issues; how could we ever show them all that in Jesus, true and abundant life can be found? Well the truth is that we were not and never will be able but...God is. When we take our eyes off our inability and focus on God's capability, we can rejoice. He is mighty to save the people of Manaus; all the lost truly can be found. Through the ongoing work in Manaus and the little that we did, may His Kingdom be furthered. May King Jesus have all the glory.

**Emily Middleton**



# God's blessing at Camp Sonshine



Over 200 different kids and young people, from 12 different nationalities and over 50 leaders made up this years Camp Sonshine. Three weeks of trips to the pool, The Aqua show, Zoo Marine and the water assault course, 3 amazing speakers that faithfully preached God's Word and so many delicious meals made by our very own Judith Loney made up the best summer camps we have ever put together. Yet it wasn't the outings, or food, or even the amazing leaders that made the difference. . . .it was God moving in and through Godly leaders impacting the kids and youth with the amazing truth of the gospel.

So many kids told us they had the best week of their lives! Kids every week crying because they didn't want to leave the camp. Kids who came from nice homes with nice families and loads of stuff and kids who came from the orphanages with no families and no stuff. All of them had one thing in common, their need of a Saviour.

During the first week of Camp, Lorna Jones put on the best kids talks we have ever had at Camp Sonshine. She told the kids they were made and created by God to be in a relationship with Him. Lorna creatively told stories from the Bible of God's great love for us and His son who died for them in order that they can have a relationship with Him. It was Lorna's burden that every kid got a children's bible to take home from camp and some dedicated their lives to Jesus.

During week two, our speaker was Jamie Meaklim who reminded the young people that their identity was in Christ and that God had a plan for each of their lives if they would only trust in Him. During week three Andrew McCormick challenged them about following Jesus and on the Thursday he told them about the baggage we get on a journey through life and how Jesus wants to deal with that baggage and our sin, there was a lot of tears. But Friday was something else! Andrew talked about the cost of following Jesus and that it would be hard and they would be even bullied and picked on because of Christ and once they accepted Christ, life wouldn't be easy. Then he asked if anyone would like to accept Christ as their Lord and Saviour and over 63 young people came forward. We gave another short talk before we prayed with them the prayer of salvation. It was such a powerful sight to behold, please pray that the Holy Spirit would do a work in their lives and their families as they grow in Him.

We are organising a few events after the summer and also a Camp reunion in September and October.

Another praise report was that my sister Joanne has got her liver transplant and is doing better than what the doctors even expected. This is such an answer to prayer, please continue to pray for her and her salvation. Also remember my mum as she is struggling with her leg at this time and is in a lot of pain.

This month I'm am working on the Bible School idea, looking at possible lecturers and programs that we could run here at the International Church of the Algarve site. We hope to put the prefab buildings in place in January 2019. I would value your prayers as I pray and think through how it all will work.

I love these verses of scripture that reminds us of the God whom we love and serve Lamentations 3:22-23  
*"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."*

Thank you for all your support.

Glen Bowden



# Breaking Down Barriers

## Jeffrey Ferguson, Santo Andre, Portugal

In the last magazine article I wrote about how necessary it is here to break down barriers and build relationships with the people. The people are generally sceptical about churches and what they stand for. We want people to know that we are

here not for our own gain but that we might point them to Christ and the life changing

message of the gospel. The English classes which I had been running at the church finished in June for the summer holidays. These classes brought 4 ladies into contact with the church for the first time, and with two Christian ladies coming who attend the church, we had the opportunity now and again to invite the others to services and events in the church. I also had the opportunity to explain why I am here, and to talk about the work of the mission, and with all the ladies being Brazilian, they enjoyed hearing about the history of our mission and its links with Brazil. We will re-commence the classes again in September and pray that others will also come along.

I have been meeting regularly with two young men for the purpose of learning English. One is a Christian and the other is not. It has been great to see this young man take an interest in attending the youth meeting on a Friday night, and he has been asking several questions based on the messages he has been hearing from God's Word. Again I hope to continue meeting with these young men after the holiday period, and if both are in agreement, use bible study materials as a means of learning English, but also as a means of teaching scripture with them.

The Portuguese classes which I was attending finished at the end of June for the summer holidays. I believe this was a beneficial class, not only because I was learning Portuguese, but also because it was a means of getting to know other people within the community here. One of the teachers gave me the opportunity to come to her English class because she wanted her students to practise their English with a native speaker. I spoke with the class and explained to them why I was here living in this town and the work we do at the church. Perhaps in the future this opportunity could arise again for more contact within the schools.

I was blessed to be able to travel to Manaus in Brazil with a team of 3 others to take part in various activities there. Being the only one of the team who could understand some Portuguese meant that for the most part I had to do my best to translate for the others, and so long as people spoke slowly and simply, I was generally able to communicate with them and relay conversations back and forward. We had a great time there with the IBEE schools, visiting churches and taking part at the Hebron missionary conference. Many of you will have met Wilma when she spoke at the Killyhevlin conference last year. She is the director of the schools and spoke to us of the increasing difficulties she faces in being able to continue to keep the schools functioning with a Christian ethos. It was amazing to be at the school assemblies each morning and hear the boys and girls recite whole chapters of the bible which they have been learning over the year. She said that above all it



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# ***"It is not for me, It is for the Lord..."***

## **Lanzarote Mission Team 2018**

Around this time last year I decided that I should go on a Mission Team. I was aware of ACRE through missionary meetings in my home church, Saintfield Baptist, and when I heard about the trip I thought that this was something I could be part of. I prayed about it and felt that it was what God wanted me to do so I contacted Keith and Karen Lindsay and was accepted to be part of the mission team! I can honestly say that it was one of the best decisions I have ever made.



The team members were Keith and Karen Lindsay, Michelle Gault, Matthew Lindsay, Matthew Conn, Linzi McClure, Sarah Porter, Lyndsey Gault, Cherith Moffitt, Joel Middleton, Jessica Lewis and myself. We set off from Belfast to Lanzarote on Tuesday 24th July and upon arrival at the airport we were greeted very warmly by Ricardo and Sandra as well as by the high temperatures that we were to get used to over the next two weeks!

I instantly felt at ease with the very friendly people we came to know and any nerves I had about how we would communicate disappeared as everyone was so kind to us making us feel at home straightaway. We spent the next few days based at the church getting the final preparations made prior to camp which started on the Friday and continued until the Tuesday of the following week. This was the first year a residential camp was held in Lanzarote and it was amazing and a complete success! There were about 25 children who attended 'Campamento 2018'. During the five days they heard the wonderful good news of the Gospel through learning memory verses, sword drill and quizzes, that the children thoroughly enjoyed. Through their answers we could see how engaged they were and how well they were taking in the Word of God. They listened intently to the Bible lessons about people Jesus met, such as Zacchaeus, Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman and the feeding of the five thousand. We also taught the children the missionary story of Dr Bill Woods in the evenings. It was extremely encouraging during our time at camp that three children Daniela, Diego and Martine realised their need for salvation and put their faith in Jesus Christ. Please pray for them and all the other children who attended camp.

It was a pleasure and blessing for us to work alongside the church in Lanzarote as this enabled the children to have in depth conversations in their own language. It was a privilege for us to have conversations with the parents of the children who attended the camp and also the church congregation when they were invited to the camp centre on Sunday. The Sunday services were very well attended and we thank God for the opportunity to share His word with them also. We pray that this will sow a seed in the hearts of these families and that God would work in their lives.

Leaving camp was quite emotional for us as we had all grown so attached to the children. Being able to work alongside the children was a fantastic experience, getting to know them individually and becoming

friends with them through their openness and kind hearts. It was heart breaking having to say goodbye knowing some of the very sad and difficult backgrounds they were going home to..

Over the course of our remaining time in Lanzarote we were involved in tract outreach in a number of towns. We also conducted a Children's Club on the Monday evening in San Francisco. It was really encouraging to see quite a few of the children who attended camp attend this along with new children too. It was also great to have the opportunity to hold a youth event at the church on the Friday evening when we watched a Christian movie outside. We had a special service at the church on the Sunday evening when the camp children were invited along with their parents and some of the team gave a word of testimony. We also took part in a meeting in the local hospital when Ricardo led and Keith preached God's word and the team sang. We were delighted to be able to attend the prayer meeting in the church during both weeks as well as the Sunday services and we were greeted with such kindness and hospitality. The team had great fun together too and enjoyed some sightseeing, visiting a water park and even rode camels!!

Throughout our whole stay in Lanzarote we were blessed and could feel God's presence with us. He took care of all our practical needs and enabled us to share His word with many people. We are very thankful to the translators as we wouldn't have been able to work as effectively with the children and communicate with the church folk. We are so thankful that they were willing to use their talents for Him. I would like to thank Ricardo and Sandra for their hospitality along with many others from the church. I also want to thank Keith and Karen and ACRE for giving us the opportunity to be part of this team and for looking after us all so well while away from home. The team got on really well together and I know I felt blessed from this experience. I would thoroughly recommend an ACRE Mission team to anyone and I would love to be able to be part of another team next year!!!

While in Lanzarote we grew very fond of hearing the phrase "No es para mí, es para El Señor" which means "It's not for me, it's for the Lord".

**Victoria Reid**

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is such a joy for her to know that people in Northern Ireland are praying for her and her staff.

After returning from Brazil, I had a few days to recover from the jetlag before heading off to the Algarve to help in the last week of Camp Sonshine. Again this was another busy week of camp with over 150 people on site. My role in the camp is to be there working in the background looking after things like organising equipment for trips, having water and snacks ready to be loaded into vehicles for outings, emptying bins and cleaning toilets. With so many people involved, it is necessary to have this team working ahead of time to get things ready for the next event. Also along the way there is opportunity to chat to the young people, to have the occasional game of snooker or to sit down with a small group and chat about what they heard in the meetings, and discuss the various topics. We believe God was working in many of the young peoples lives throughout the week, and many on the last day indicated they would like to become Christians. Two of our young men from Santo Andre church attended the camp as Christians were challenged afresh concerning their zeal for the Lord, and certainly life here as a young Christian is not easy with many distractions and things of the world to pull them away. My prayer is to see these young men fired up for God and being a positive influence for Christ among their peers.

Continue to remember us in Santo Andre as we seek to advance the work here, and that God would guide us as we seek to make plans for the future. We will have another Fatima team here from the 7th to 14th October, and we also plan to have some folk come over to help us with our Christmas program in December.

Thank you for continuing to pray for us, we value your support immensely as we work towards seeing many more people reached with the gospel in Portugal.

# **NEWS from Brazil**

## **Pastor Junior & Cristina, Nisia Floresta, NE Brazil**

We are happy and encouraged with the work of God here in Nisia. In July we participated in the Men's Conferences at the Tangara Baptist where the theme was Rescuing the image of the fallen Man. It was a blessed night of good fellowship with the men there. Cristina, also spoke to the ladies. In August the Ladies of Femalina held a conference with the ladies of the Baptist churches of Tangara, Santo Antonio, Varzea, Sao Jose de Mipibú and Santo Antonio. There were more than 100 women who came together to glorify the name of Jesus. Also the men of the Nisia Baptist Church are going to participate in the Mens conference in the Nova Crus Church. We will also be holding the Missionary Conference of the Baptist Church of Santo Antonio do Santo da Onça. At the end of the month our youth will participate in the Young peoples Conference at Campo Redondo Baptist Church. Please pray for these programs and thank God for the prayers on behalf of our Ministry in Nisia.

## **Pastor Iran & Socorro: Campo Redondo, NE Brazil**

The work here in Campo Redondo and region continues to develop, even with some difficulties. We ask you to pray that God will send us workers for two areas called Malhada Vermelha and also Lajes Pintadas. In Campo Redondo at the end of July, a couple made a decision for Christ. They were Catholics and as they studied the Bible and started to attend our Evangelical Church they soon gave their lives to Christ. The work with the children continues on Saturdays in Lauro Maia and on Sunday morning in the main church. The work in Malhada Vermelha is still going well. A team of brothers has helped in that work, mainly on Sundays, going there to preach the Word of God, and once a month the brothers come to the service in Campo Redondo. In the Serra do Doutor, another rural community, we are doing meetings every 15 days. We visit in the afternoon and then have the meetings at night. In the neighboring town of Lajes Pintadas the work has really been very discouraging. Few people, namely only 7 come along to the meetings. I'm going there three times a month and some of the church members here in Campo Redondo have gone there every two weeks. Iranilson Gomes takes care of the work there in our absence. He has three meetings a week but has no work with children and young people nor a Sunday School. We need an urgent worker. Please pray that God would raise up someone to go. The radio program continues from Monday to Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 pm at the local radio station. As well as our ministry of visitation, it has not really been easy. Pray for us.

## **Pastor Ageu & Riza, Feijo, Acre**

It was a blessing to share the Gospel with the people from Shanenawá Indian Village recently. Some of them trusted the Lord as their Saviour. Please pray for them. Please pray for the father of Pastor Ageu who was in a serious accident recently. He is currently in hospital in Rio Branco.

## **Pastor Luiz & Aldeneide: Passa é Fica**

The work in Passa e Fica is a great challenge every day. These challenges make us grow in Christ and become more convinced of His will. Please pray for Francisca, our neighbor, who made a decision for Christ. She is 87 years old and has been a practicing Catholic all of her life. We are discipling her with much patience because she can not read. The traditions of Catholicism are very rooted and the many superstitions within the Catholic

church. Her daughter is an Adventist, but she has many doubts about Adventist doctrine, so we have been able to also share the truth with her. We hope to win them to Christ. Also a young woman who is coming to the services (she is already a believer) her name is Ellen. Some people we are evangelizing through studies and visits. Pray for Gerusa, Braz, Dona Benta and Laura. The childrens meetings have been very good although not many children are coming, but we have a regular attendance every Saturday. Thank you for your ongoing prayers.



# *Acre Christmas Praise Night*

## Saturday, 1st December, 2018

in The Faith Mission Centre, Mahon Road, Portadown at 7.30pm

Tamlaghtmore Silver Band and Various Singers

Christmas Supper at close ~ Free Admission

Offering for the work of Acre



# ***Our First Camp in Lanzarote...***

**Pastor Ricardo & Sandra, Lanzarote**



This has been the fourth year that we have hosted an Acre Youth Summer Team in the church in Arrecife. We had a great time of fellowship, unity and team effort with each of these young folk who came from Northern Ireland to share with us.

This is the first children's camp to be done with Ricardo as Pastor with the help of the Acre Team. A total of 23 children attended, 16 which were non-believers. Of the 16, 12 are not from the church. Three children accepted the Lord Jesus: Daniela, Diego and Martín. Pray that they may continue to come to church and stay firm in Christ.

We give thanks to the Lord that on the Sunday of the camp we were also able to have a Family Service inside the chapel of Nazareth House where we were for the camp. Although it is a Catholic place, they rented it to us. There aren't any camp centres in Lanzarote to accommodate all of the children and the leaders. There were 50 of us altogether. Many non-believers attended the service and heard the gospel message including a number of the parents of the campers. Some have never been to church before!

After the camp was over, the Acre team were able to distribute Christian literature in a main shopping area in Arrecife and also in the villages of Playa Honda and Femes. We held a children's club in the neighbourhood of San Francisco Javier and also had an outreach for the Young people with an Open Air Cinema showing a Christian movie. We knew great blessing and encouragement as the team shared in the church services and in the Hospital Service on the Friday afternoon. Unsaved were attending all of these meetings and we pray that God will continue to speak to hearts.



There are many blessings in the work in the church week by week. In September we commence all of our winter programme of meetings again with the children's clubs in the 4 plazas, the old peoples outreach and the prison bible studies along with the hospital visitation. Please remember us as we prepare for the Ladies retreat FIEIDE on the last weekend of November when Ladies from all over the Canary Islands will be along to our church for a weekend of ministry and encouragement. We are responsible for all of this!

Pray for some of the new believers that have asked for baptism: Mario (from Guinea), Maria Eugenia (from Colombia); Samuel Ovidio (Romania), Fabio (Colombia), and Mauricio and Carolina (Uruguay) who are young people. It is a blessing that Maria Eugenia was able to marry her life partner (Edilson) and also Mauricio and Carolina, will have got married on August 20th.

Sandra has received a position to work as a primary school English teacher in a state school, full-time. It is a great blessing. In addition, our son Daniel starts university studies in History of music, in Granada (Spain). Please remember their witness in these places.

Thank you for your continued love and prayers for us.

## *The World is Coming to us...*

**Tony & Silvia & Mervyn & Joan from the church**



Portugal is probably best known around the world because of its links with the Americas ever since Alvarez Cabral discovered Brazil in 1500 expanding Portugal's territory and civilization westwards deep into the Amazon jungle. However, Portugal's colonial network was not only limited to Brazil but stretched around the globe. There was once a time when Portugal, competed with Britain to 'rule the waves!' Portugal's colonies at one point extended as far as Macau (now part of China), East Timor, Goa in India and also closer

home to the continent of Africa into countries such as Mozambique and Angola. Not forgetting the Portuguese islands of Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Cape Verde and off course Madeira and the Azores. Without a doubt, the Portuguese language, culture, religion and architecture has left its mark all over the world. Today somewhat of a role reversal is taking place. It is these countries and peoples that are now leaving their mark on this tiny country as many souls in recent years have sought refuge and safety in what is now known as one of the safest countries in the world. It is for this same reason that many northern Europeans are flocking to these shores in search of a peaceful place to retire; Away from the social problems and violence that are blighting most major European cities today. Others come here looking for work in the supporting tourist industry that has revived the local economy since the crash of 2008. As in New Testament times, the movement of peoples served for the advancement of the Gospel, and the same can be said of the mass immigration into Portugal from the former colonies and northern European sun-seekers that are flocking here today. Many have left

their homelands and adopted this one as their own in order to escape persecution or for economic reasons. Historically it has been the Brits and Irish who looked to Portugal as a place to soak up the sun but today thousands of French, Russians, Eastern Europeans and Scandinavians are buying up properties across Portugal. At no other time in the history of this country have so many nationalities come to live here. The Algarve itself has a resident population of around 500,000 but it is estimated that over 9 million people will pass through the Algarve alone this summer. And 33 years ago God placed the burden on the hearts of Peter and Marianne Sluimer to plant an international Church here in the Algarve! You see, the God who sees the future, knew all these people would be coming this way and set about creating a Gospel witness to the Nations in what was an insignificant abandoned part of the Iberian Peninsula not that many years ago. Not so today. The Algarve is quickly becoming an international hub and the opportunities that God is giving us to reach the Nations are astounding. The platform we have been given is an open door for the preaching of the Good News. Please pray with us that God will continue to use the witness of the International Evangelical Church of the Algarve as we seek to reach the Nations who are on our doorstep. Pray that God will give us ideas and opportunities to reach out to the Portuguese and all the nationalities that God has placed around us. In recent days God has also been challenging us about the many towns and villages across the Algarve that are still without a Gospel witness. The university campus in Faro is also on our hearts as young people from all over Portugal and around the world are coming to study there. The Eastern Algarve towards the Spanish border is in great need of a Christian witness. We have been asked to help plant a church in that area but we are few, so please pray that God will bring more labourers into His harvest field. Thank you for standing with us in prayer.

**Mark & Judith Loney**

## Acre Annual Dinner

in Lisburn Congregational Church Hall

**Saturday, 6th October, 2018 at 7.00pm**

*£19.00 per person*

**Send booking form and payment to:**

*Acre Dinner, 30 Carngrave Manor, Spa,*

*Ballynahinch BT24 8XE*

## Killyhevlin Autumn Break

**Monday, 19th November to**

**Thursday, 22nd November, 2018**

*Last few rooms available.*

## MY RESPONSE

- I would like to receive your monthly prayer letter/magazine
- I would like a gift aid form
- I have enclosed a gift of £..... to help present the Gospel Message to the millions of people in Brazil, Portugal, Lanzarote and Northern Ireland.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

..... Postcode.....

Email.....

Please send to:

Acre International, 30 Carngrave Manor,  
Spa, Ballynahinch, BT24 8XE

