

CONTACT



Good News for the boys

See pages 10-11

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Open doors for Leadership Academy



Daniel Habtey

Healed and saved over the phone

Tesfay is an Eritrean refugee who lives in Den Haag, Netherlands. He registered to be a part of the on-line 'Joseph Leadership Academy' to learn some leadership skills. After two weeks he stopped the leadership course. I phoned him to find out what had been happening to see if I could help in any way. He told me that his father was very ill in hospital, so he was under a lot of pressure and feeling depressed. I asked him if I could pray for him and his father and he agreed reluctantly. After a couple of days, he phoned me and told me a miracle had happened and his father was completely healed and now at home. We praised God together and I asked him if he would like to accept Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour and as Lord in his life. Praise God, he accepted!

Baptism and discipleship course

Tesfay has been taking a discipleship course for a few months and recently he was baptised in water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is now an active member of Den Haag Eritrean church.

Integration

Many Eritrean refugees who live in the West are struggling to fit into Western culture. Despite all the challenges, Tesfay is really happy that he is a Christian and living in Netherlands. He is taking some Dutch language and culture courses to build his communication skills.

Open doors

I believe God is opening a door of salvation through the Joseph Leadership Academy as there have been more people saved recently and I hope to share their stories too. Thank you to CAM International and all who support me financially and in prayer. Together we are making a difference by God's grace.

**'Surely the arm
of the Lord is not
too short to save,
nor his ear too
dull to hear.'**

Isaiah 59:1

▲ (top) Ready for the online sessions

▲ (centre) Tesfay delighted with what God has done

An incredible journey



Gordon McKillop

When we arrive back in UK following our time in Zambia, we are frequently asked, 'When do you go back?' During this extended period in UK due to the pandemic, we must have been asked that question 1,000 times! It was a strange feeling not to have an answer. We did not know when we would get back. Even when we booked and confirmed our departure, the airlines frequently postponed flights and were unable to tell us when things would return to 'normal', whatever post Covid-19 normal is. We are waiting to see!

Wait for the Lord

Waiting is often portrayed in Scripture as living with the hope of promises revealed, but not yet fulfilled. Lockdown was without doubt a period where we had to learn yet again to 'wait for the Lord'.

A welcome call

The day finally came, after six months, when another 'confirmed' flight was 're-confirmed' by phone, so, with suitcases long since packed, we were ready to set off. It was 6 August. The one difference on this trip was that the Motherwell to Manchester leg of the journey was now by train. At least this would be a new experience for the grandchildren: rather than seeing us disappear down a long airport corridor, they could wave us off instead.

Boarding the train

We were soon standing on the station platform 15 minutes before the train was due. Saying goodbyes gets harder with the years. The train approached, more hugs, and we bundled our suitcases onto the train. Our daughter Susan and her husband Willie helped us get six bags quickly on board. Willie said to the guard, 'We are just putting on the cases and getting back off.' The guard said, 'No problem, the train can't go without my signal.' As the cases were being piled up, the doors closed, and the train began to speed away from the station platform. Susan shouted, 'Oh, ma weans!' as the children were waiting patiently on the platform.



Keeping warm in Scotland

^ (top) Road to Nyangombe - wet season



▲ Time flies...they celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary in June

She promptly put her hand through the glass cover on the train emergency stop! Apart from a small cut and a bit of bruising, all the family were reunited, and we were finally on our way.

Onward to Africa

The trip to Manchester and onward to Addis Ababa and then Lusaka was uneventful. We were glad to see our bags on the Lusaka carousel. Formalities were straightforward. As we walked through to Immigration, we saw our names listed on a big overhead TV screen. Amazingly, this meant that because we had conformed to all documentary regulations, we could pass straight through the checks and be on our way as there was no need for us to quarantine. Praise God!

A great surprise

Another two hurdles to go: Immigration for Sam and Sybil to get visas renewed. We were told to be there early and arrived at 05:30 for the 08:00 opening. Just before doors opened, a man came around giving out tickets for our position in the queue. Sybil wasn't given one but was told that as a senior citizen she would be first in. To say she was shocked is an understatement! 'How could I have got that old?' she kept saying! It was nice to see again the respect Africa still has for those with some years under their belts.

***Wait on the Lord;
be of good courage,
and He shall
strengthen your
heart. Wait, I say,
on the Lord!***

Psalm 27:14 NKJV

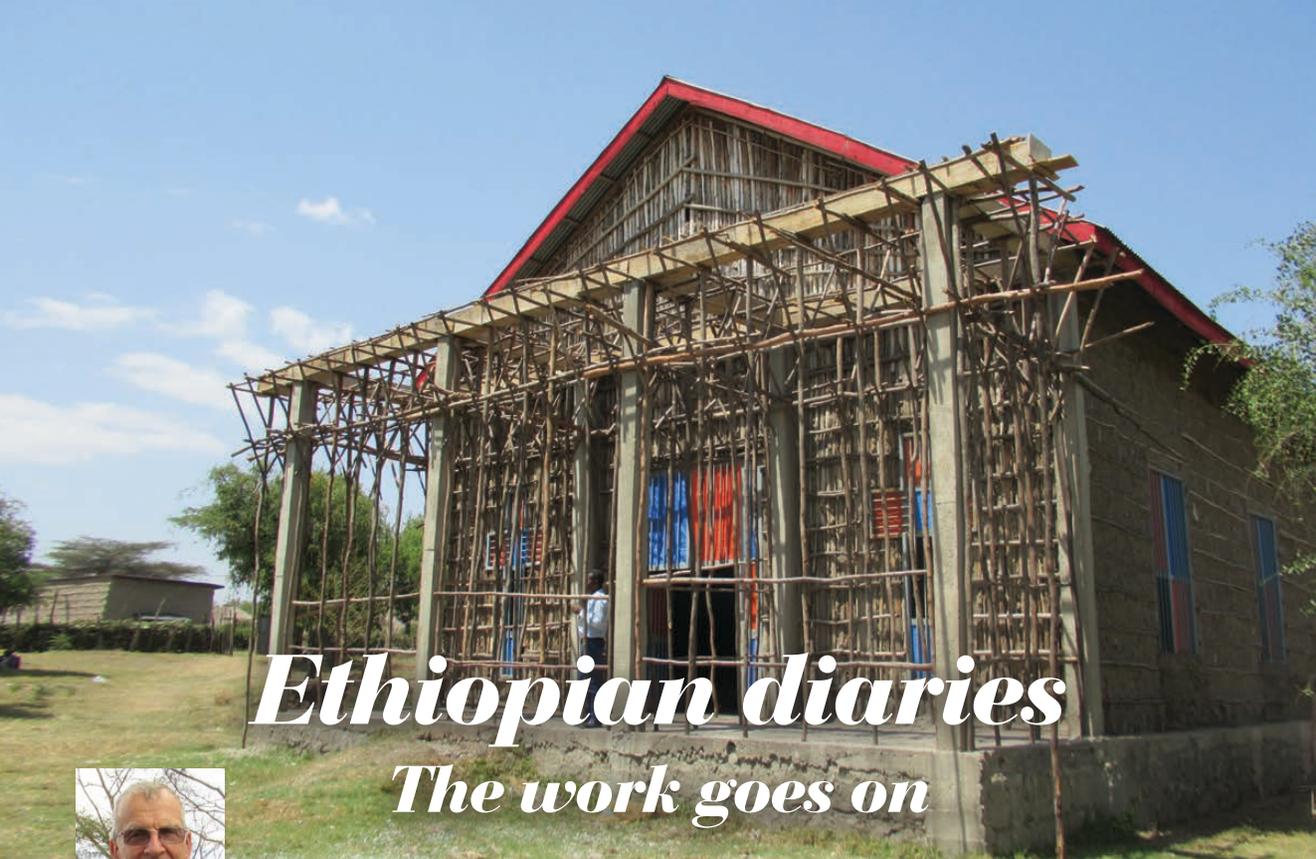
Visas in hand, we departed for the North as quickly as we could and arrived in Kitwe where some hardware shopping was still needed. A kind missionary friend had already done Sybil's food shopping.

The final leg

Next day we headed on to Nyangombe and it felt so 'right' to be back. The world is certainly different during Covid-19, but the basic needs of men and women have not changed. We are so glad and thankful to the Lord to be back at Nyangombe.



▲ Sybil the 'senior citizen' with a group from Nyangombe



Ethiopian diaries

The work goes on



Dave Garrard

Seyfu is a man I have visited on several occasions. He works with many Muslim sheiks in his area. He said that he was very happy to see me and thanked God for all his help in the work he is involved in. He testified that several of the situations he asked me to pray about last year, such as the need for transport, had worked out. He now has a motorcycle which helps greatly when he is travelling around to visit the new church plants.

Protection in the midst of unrest

He said that God is doing amazing things, but Satan is stirring up the different people groups in the area to cause war and hatred between them. Some people have had their homes burned down and their crops burned, so there is no food, water or electricity in the area because of the unrest. Nevertheless, despite this, many are coming to Christ. Although they are all Muslim groups, they hate each other. It is a tribal thing, but the government is also involved in what is happening.

▲ I will build my church

Some individuals use this unrest to attack the Christians. I asked him if he has been attacked. He said he has received many threatening phone calls stating that they would kill him, but the Lord has protected him.

Ongoing work

Seyfu keeps working and preaching. He started out early this year by baptising 24 new believers. There are also three sheiks who have come to Jesus. Seyfu has started a series of training classes for the new converts. They have groups of people involved in training who are ready to go out and preach, but he is praying for more workers as the need is so great.

The provision of God

The church where he was previously based was a temporary structure with wattle and mud, but now they have got cement blocks in place and a new building. The government officials in the nearest town have high regard for him. He said that one day he pulled up in front of the offices on his

motorcycle and parked next to two cars. Then a car came speeding down the road and crashed right into all of them. The cars were ruined, but his motorcycle didn't have a scratch on it and even though the people were standing right there, no one was hurt. They all took this as a sign that God was with him. Even though the heads of the government department are all Muslim, they have given him a piece of land where he can build a training centre for the whole town.

A step ahead

He says in the past the Muslims never trained the people in the Koran, but now they have started. They are telling the youth to avoid the churches and any Bible teaching. Seyfu wants to train the families so that they will know how to handle the new strategies of the Muslims against them. They plan to build on the land where there is water and electricity and are praying the necessary licences and permissions are granted. He says God showed him exactly what he needs to do to undertake this.

Favour in the midst of opposition

In the past he brought some leaders to another town to train them secretly, but some people observed what he was doing. He was then accused at the court, but the case was thrown out. If he does this work locally, he says he can carry it out in a more open way and be left in peace because he has favour from the officials.

Praise God that during this year there has been steady growth. There are many who are delivered from demonic activity and many are coming to Christ when they hear the Gospel.



▲ Sharing tea and hearing about God's work



▲ Ready to receive Bible teaching



▲ Sharing together

Marion Leeming

‘One amazing lady’



Lyn Ramsey

Marion and her husband Roy celebrated their Diamond Wedding last January. After 60 happy and fruitful years together, it was a painful wrench for Roy when his wife passed away suddenly in hospital on 10 August, aged 87. It was so sad for those left behind, but a glorious release for Marion, who had been suffering for years with pain and increasing immobility.



▲ Marion with one of her great-granddaughters



▲ Encouraging each other

Indefatigable

Marion and Roy started working with CAM in Congo as single missionaries in 1958. After their marriage in 1960, they continued serving in Congo together until their retirement in 1998, apart from six years in Belgium after the post-Independence troubles, and seven years back in UK for Steven and Sarah’s secondary education. Marion’s work as a nurse and midwife was her priority, but she also loved Bible teaching. During the 70s, she and Roy took part in the District Bible School ministry, living in the bush for several weeks to teach church leaders from the area. In 1988, the Leemings moved to Lwamba to pioneer the Hospital Project. After retirement, they continued promoting CAM’s work in UK churches. Marion was indefatigable, but also kind and caring, with an amazing letter-writing ministry that blessed many needy and lonely folk.

‘An unstoppable force’

Marion’s funeral, on 25 August, was unlike any other in the history of CAM, with a memorial service at Bamber Bridge Pentecostal Church attended by invited mourners only, because of Covid-19. The 25 or so present in the church had to wear masks, sit socially distanced and refrain from singing – only hum! However, people all over the world could watch the service by YouTube video link. Robin Morris, who, with his wife Cathy, had accompanied Roy and Marion on bush Bible School trips, led the meeting and gave the message. Tributes from family and friends spoke of ‘one amazing lady’ who was like ‘an unstoppable force’.

Paul’s three words

Paul and Janet Stephenson worked with the Leemings at Lwamba, Paul being the master

builder of the Hospital. In his tribute at the service, summarised below, Paul gave us three words that describe Marion for him.

Determined

In all she did, Marion was totally committed to seeing things through and to the highest standard. It was because of her and Roy's determination to see the work at Lwamba come to fruition that there is a working hospital there today.

Dependable

Marion was very dependable, both in the area of finance and in her dealings with people. She didn't promise things she couldn't deliver - a great example to us new missionaries. Marion was honest and open wherever finance was concerned. She and Roy inspired us by their faith in God to supply the needs of the project. Sometimes funds were too low to pay the workers at the month end, but they kept on working, trusting that God would honour the Leemings' faith - and the money always came in. Marion was also dependable when it came to prayer. If she said she would pray for you, you could guarantee she would, and that has been a great encouragement to our family over the years.

Devoted

Marion was also devoted - to her Lord, to Roy and the family, and to others. She served God wholeheartedly and encouraged others to do the same. In our Sunday evening get-togethers at Lwamba, we were just two families. Here we saw Marion's devotion and love for her family in her constant, passionate prayers for them. Her devotion to Roy shone out. When his hearing was failing, she would write reams and reams to help him follow church messages, conversations and discussions. Marion's devotion to the wellbeing of others was what really defined her. Her kindness and patience touched countless lives. Our sons were so grateful for the birthday cakes and presents Marion somehow found for them out in the bush at Lwamba.

I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say how much we appreciated Marion. How we thank the Lord for her influence on our lives!



▲ Roy and Marion in Congo



▲ Paul Stephenson



▲ A happy day indeed



Good will and glad tidings

Ginny Perkins

I wanted to share with you an inspiring story about Gaby, a young man connected through the Lighthouse ministry, who has been nurtured and received training over many years. For three years he studied at university in the border town of Kasumbalesa, about a three-hour drive from Lubumbashi where we are based. While there he taught a Sunday School and now teaches between 40 and 60 boys at a nearby church.

Glad Tidings

He is passionate to reach street boys for Jesus. He went to the border during the Covid restrictions as he was burdened to share about Jesus. The street boys hang out in small groups to support each other; they can be related or have just made friends on the streets. He got chatting to four boys and shared the message of glad tidings with them. He then asked them to go and find four friends, which they did. Throughout the day

many boys heard the message of hope - new life in Jesus Christ.

Acts of kindness

People tend to be scared of the street boys as they have a reputation for stealing and anti-social behaviour. Gaby also provides practical help. He brings buckets of water and gives them soap so the boys can wash. The day that was the game changer was the day he bought them 'flipflops'. The boys were so overjoyed that some even danced!

Changed lives

Over the last few months many have stopped drinking strong alcohol, sniffing glue and fighting. The boys look so different! As they have changed so much the 'mamas' at the local market are not as fearful and are willing to help them with food. The boys find it easier to get odd jobs too. Praise God!



▲ Gaby and his two helpers



▲ The boys showing off their new shoes

Restoration

Some of the boys desperately want to be reunited with their families. Many are afraid to return home or can't afford the transport fare. Gaby is raising 250 chickens to generate funds to help the boys. Some boys have already been reunited with their families. One mother had been searching for her son for three months. She was overwhelmed when Gaby presented him at her front door. Overcome with joy, she has subsequently joined the church.

Future plans

The Government recently bulldozed the area where the boys lived and hung out as it was unsafe. This area was full of eating places that had been built under some powerlines where lorry drivers could stop and buy a hot meal. Unfortunately, they had been built illegally, as there is a law that buildings have to be a specific distance from power lines.

Gaby hopes the money from raising the chickens can purchase a plot of land. He plans to construct four rooms where some of the boys can live, plus an area for them to continue raising chickens.

Please pray that more of the boys will respond to the glad tidings and many more will also be restored to their loved ones.



▲ Gaby is now able to help these twins



▲ Group of boys



▲ Four of the boys



Unexpected opportunities

Editor

Back in September, after three failed attempts to get flights to India, Sam Livingston had a few days to spend in Ndola with Pastor Ziso Moyo and his team. Ziso oversees the Oasis group of churches. Sam had some wonderful ministry opportunities, being involved in praise, worship, preaching and teaching. He loves sharing his testimony and spending time with young people. His desire is that they will be impacted with the truth about Jesus. Sam loves to involve the children and young people in lots of different activities and team games.

Sam then travelled to Lusaka Airport with Ziso but faced another setback when he was stopped at the gate from boarding the plane because he didn't have a specific 'E-pass' for Chennai (his destination in SE India), although he had one for India. This new document had only just been required, and it would take 48 hours to process! After successfully transferring his ticket they went together to one of Ziso's Oasis group churches and then returned to Ndola. Sam later went by bus back to Lusaka and caught his flight on 25 September.



▲ Teaching in the shade



▲ Sam organising team games



▲ Sam (left) with some of the team (Ziso 2nd from right)



▲ Learning some new songs ▲ (top) Joining together



▲ Singing together in one of the Oasis churches

Personnel updates



Kym Delport



Sam Livingston

In early August, Sam finally managed to get a flight to Zambia after his extended visit to UK due to lockdown. During his time in UK, we were very excited for Sam on hearing the news of his engagement to Sarah Maltby. On arriving in Zambia, Sam was met with the news of a likely lockdown due to increasing Covid-19 cases. Ministry was also very restricted due to the ban on social gatherings. Following discussion with Gordon McKillop, Sam decided to fly to India to apply for a UK visa. Several cancelled flights later, Sam finally flew out on 25 September. After spending time visiting his family, Sam plans to come to Preston to marry Sarah. We know that Sam and Sarah would greatly value your prayers for the Lord's guidance for their future.

Lloyd & Sandy Rowlands

Earlier this year, Lloyd and Sandy advised us of their future plans. After returning to Adelaide, Australia at the beginning of 2019 to organise Sandy's pension, they got involved in church and ministry there and have now decided to make that their base. Sandy will not be returning to Congo, but Lloyd plans to make short annual visits, as possible. His visit this year has been extended by 6 months due to the pandemic!



All three will be keeping in touch with their African colleagues as the work continues.



Lyn Ramsey

Lyn mentioned in the last issue that Barbara Lawson would be taking over from her as Editor of this magazine. We are thrilled with this news and welcome Barbara on board. Now, on behalf of the Director, Trustees and Supporters of CAM International, we wish to give Lyn a HUGE round of applause and to thank her for over 18 years of dedicated work where she would have been responsible for putting together in the region of 200 excellent issues of CONTACT. We pray God's blessing on her in her well-deserved retirement.

▲ Lyn with two church friends from Ndola



From the Editor

Barbara Lawson

The Leemings

I first came to know about CAM International (as it is known now), when Roy and Marion visited our Struthers church in Glasgow, Scotland in 2005. They gave a truly inspiring presentation of the work in Africa and through them I felt God stir my heart to be involved. I went to Zambia in September 2006 and the Leemings have faithfully prayed for me, encouraged me and stood by me as dear friends over the years. It is poignant that Marion's tribute is included in this edition. I give thanks for her life, her inspiration and friendship.

The Archives

One of my highlights so far as Editor is having access to the archives. I'm grateful to Andrew Ramsey for creating this archive. The earliest 'Contact' magazine available was written by Mr. Burton and Mr. Salter entitled 'Letters from Congo No.3' and dated November 1915. I don't know what happened to No.1 and 2. The letter is a typed report updating readers on the work, but mostly it is an exultation of praise, giving glory to God for the outworking of the gospel. This letter really does inspire those at home to pray on!

Exultation from Teddy Hodgson

A report written in 1921 by 'Teddy' Hodgson from Kisanga is truly inspiring. 'Teddy' was one of the Mission's early missionaries who served for 40 years. He became a Martyr of the Faith in 1960. 'It is with a heart welling up and bubbling over with praise to our blessed Father that I write these few lines to tell you of God's continued goodness, and answers to the continual stream of prayer that ascends on our behalf from hearts that are dear to us all. Refreshings, upliftings, sustainings, wisdom in dealing, and the continual presence of the Lord in power - these are our daily experience. Kept by the power of God is our testimony.'

Jesus heals

Teddy had been ill with a fever but had been asked to do some urgent building work. He accepted the invitation in faith: 'I was ill right up to the moment of leaving my house, but the fever all went the moment I got astride my bicycle. Hallelujah!' After doing building work in a few villages they journeyed on again. 'Although the sun was getting high in the heavens and a big journey still to face, we stayed for three quarters of an hour, and held



▲ Roy & Marion at Susan McKillop's wedding in 2006



▲ Before going to Zambia in 2006



▲ Teddy Hodgson

a good gospel service, God giving me a strong message...The fever again tried to get me down, but the Lord answered prayer and rebuked the fever?

God's keeping power

Then during some roofing work, 'The whole half ton of framed timber fell back on me, knocking me clean off the wall. But our God is able, and so instead of striking the wall headfirst I was wedged in an old wall, and so preserved. Praise God, He saves, He heals, He keeps!'

Our unchanging God

I read this report in conjunction with preparing the articles for this edition. I was moved deeply at the ongoing work of God. Although some of the terminology and wording used to describe the work has changed over the years, it is the same message. I have heard people say that missions are a thing of the past, but I think it's easy to see, in the many testimonies shared in this edition, that God is moving, often unobtrusively, but still as powerful and glorious. Let us pray on that His kingdom



▲ A flamboyant tree - seasonal for Christmas time in Africa

will come and His will be done in our time and generation.

Christmas giving

Although it is only early October as I write now, this is the Christmas edition of Contact! I need to remind you of our special fund for blessing our missionaries with a Christmas gift, showing them that they're not forgotten. All money received will be divided equally between CAM's serving missionaries. See back cover on how to donate. Any cheques should NOT be made out to individuals. Please include a note, 'Christmas Gift for Missionaries'.

***We send warm
Christmas greetings to
all our faithful readers,
supporters and prayer
warriors!***



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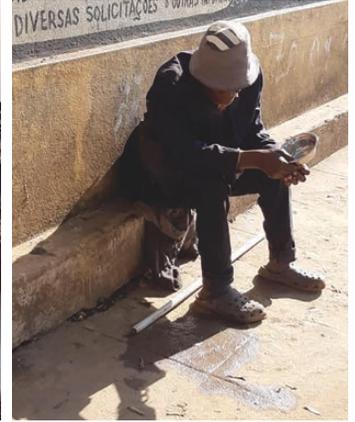
Reaching others for Christ

In September our missionaries in Mozambique, Wanderley & Rosaria da Silva, were involved in completing a survey with City Officials seeking to identify some older people who had come to the streets to ask for help due to the current coronavirus crisis. The survey identified 18 older people, many who are blind or living with other disabilities. These people will receive monthly support of a basket of groceries and some general supplies. In total, over 80 people will benefit, many of them children and family members of these vulnerable adults. Two of the individuals are homeless, one of them currently living in a cemetery because he has nowhere else to live. The da Silvas are planning to build houses for them. After speaking with the mayor, a piece of land has been provided to build the houses.

May God continue to bless this ministry and help them reach more people in this way



▲ Wanderley & Rosaria packing the groceries



▲ Asking for alms



▲ Sitting in the hot sun



▲ A household now able to receive help



▲ Food supplies

*Pure and genuine religion in the sight
of God the Father means caring for
orphans and widows in their distress
and refusing to let the world corrupt you.*

James 1:27 NLT

DONATIONS

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