

Better Late Than...

*How did it get so late so soon?
It's night before its afternoon
December is here before its June
My goodness! How the time has flown
How did it get so late so soon?*

How time has 'flown' since my last update. I am amazed that so many months have passed... however, here it is at last.

My recent retirement has actually left me busier than ever. Although I am now no longer 'self-employed' I have re-arranged my time and offered to stay as the main contact for CBCF Trust on a voluntary basis. They have taken responsibility for the work of these churches and ministries and asked me to visit these places on their behalf for the present time. I do not now carry responsibility for the finances as these are also the responsibility of the Trust.

My new home, which I took with retirement in mind, has also taken time and with responsibility for a garden have found this new hobby very time consuming. In addition my second book is with the publishers and I have just been advised from Pakistan that my 'Unity' book has been translated into Urdu and the first 1000 copies have been published.

India (1st – 16th December)

After a very good trip to America in September I made my third visit to Rajahmundry and worked again with Pastor Joshua Geddam. A very full programme which included two pastor's Unity conferences and two crusades. It has been such a thrill to see how the Unity book has been used. Somewhere in the region of 250 people made a positive response to the call of the Gospel and as always after praying for the sick many testified to being healed.

Projects

While in India, I was asked by a British ministry 'Change 4 Change' to report on various projects that they have been sponsoring. As a result I was involved in the groundbreaking of two new wells and also officially opened another! I was also privileged to be able to present ten treadle sewing machines for small business start-ups and visited several small businesses that had been sponsored by Change 4 Change that were flourishing. It is not certain when I will return to Rajahmundry, although Pastor Joshua continues to invite me.

Pakistan (13th – 23rd February)

Having received several invitations from various ministries in Pakistan through this website I finally agreed with Pastor Iftikhar to work with him. I was a little apprehensive in view of the political situation and was a little surprised to find that in the 'Christian' quarter that I was staying how neglected this area is. The government do not develop the Christian areas and they are seldom able to find gainful employment.

Miracles

However, the Gospel is 'good news' for the poor and even in this strongly Muslim area I was able to hold a three day tent crusade which saw some 450 former Muslims make a positive response to the call for salvation. It was a little unnerving to have an armed escort on each shoulder with a Kalshnikov rifle as I walked to the meeting tent and another at the entrance for security. As always we prayed for the sick and many wonderful healings were recorded. Perhaps the most striking was a man who was brought to the meeting who had been paralysed from the neck down for almost eight years. We received a report the following day that he was 'leaping and jumping and praising God'. We wanted to visit him but he was not at home as he was out telling anyone who would listen what the Lord had done for him.

Good news for the poor

Several people came to the house for prayer. One man with several problems including heart disease was healed and turned up the next day with the leader of the Mosque who also asked for healing prayer. Another great memory is of a home meeting where two Muslim ladies completely covered in their muslim dress came forward for healing prayer. It is great to see that God is at work in the lives of these lovely people even though we are being conditioned by political correctness not to evangelise them.

Please pray for Pastor Iftikhar. A recent e-mail from him stated, **"We have very difficult time in Pakistan. 2 week ago Taliban attack on my home injured my brother my mom and Sisters and give me threat 'Leave Pakistan otherwise you will be killed.'"**

Zimbabwe (30th March – 18th April)

Another first visit and again a contact from my website. I had tried on two previous occasions to go to Bulawayo. The first was in May last year which was cancelled because of the post election violence and then in October following the sad loss of my father. But in April, after an 11 hour flight from Paris I found myself on an African bus for a sixteen hour journey from Johannesburg to Bulawayo. A very tired missionary arrived in Filabusi that night for the opening Crusade meeting.

This was to be the first of two very good venues for open air meetings which again proved very fruitful. Over the time some 1000 people acknowledged the truth of the Gospel and responded to His call. It is this that makes it very difficult for me to stop my travels.

Zimbabwe seems to be in a poor state economically. I thought the shops were barren with mainly cigarettes, candles and condoms on sale, but the people were very optimistic saying that there had been literally nothing there some months ago. I understood that this area of Zimbabwe was not so badly affected as most. Stories of famine and great need came from people of other areas further east.

The saddest story, which also reflects the dire lack of services is highlighted by the death of the son of Pastor Tshili. He was admitted into hospital in Bulawayo on Good Friday with a diagnosis of kidney failure. A search of every hospital and medical establishment in this, the second largest city in Zimbabwe, could not produce a functioning dialysis machine that would have saved his life. His parents had to watch their beloved son die through lack of facilities and spare parts. I was able to carry the burden of the funeral arrangements and services for Pastor Tshili and his family. I cut short my visit to give him the time and space he needed to grieve for his lost son.

Please pray for pastor Tshili and for the fragile political situation in Zimbabwe.

I hope to soon report the publication of my latest book, entitled "Are We There Yet?" It looks at the Book of Revelation in the light of the times in which we are living to ask the question of the title. As before, I will be giving it away free but soliciting donations to CBCF Trust to enable the work of this ministry to continue a little longer. You have been warned!

Ahead is a trip to Kenya to take five Unity conferences in various places. Then a return to America followed by a short trip to Lagos, Nigeria as the main speaker at a five day conference. Then a holiday at the end of the year. After a weekend in Prague 'sightseeing' I will be flying to Sydney, Australia. The special price flight was too low to resist. I hope to visit some old friends who moved there many years ago, before driving overland to Ayres Rock. Then back home just in time to spend Christmas at home with my mother.

Otherwise, I am enjoying a quiet and peaceful 'retirement'! – Ah well!

.....