

# Barrow's Buzz...

September 2019

*'Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs'. (Jonah 2:8)*

Dear Friends...

As the days draw shorter, the shadows longer, and the warm summer temperatures begin to decline in the UK, we've been reminded it is time to write. The monthly donor list received from SIM serve as a clear reminder of God's abundant grace through you during the past month, and through these past 28 years of ministry service. As ever our emotions are stretched – deeply thankful but... quite simply humbled. Thank you yet again.

I (Tim) have been reading and studying in the book of Jonah recently. Jesus pays reference to Jonah in His teaching (Matt 12:38-42, 16:1-4) giving credibility to the historicity of this simple story of a reluctant servant of God, and God's relentless pursuit of him. A timeless teaching for us even today. The truth of Jonah's verse above reverberates through the whole book and bears thought and reflection. Who did Jonah have in mind when he spoke these words? Was it the sailors who'd '*cried out to his god*' before they hurled Jonah overboard attempting to calm the storm? Was it the Ninevites who remained in their evil ways due to Jonah's flight in the opposite direction toward Tarshish? Or was it Jonah himself – overwhelmed by God's gracious pursuit and intervention through the storm - a means to bring Jonah back to Himself? Please pray for Tim as he prepares to teach the book at a St. Marks Sunday evening service in November.

For close to three years now Tim has been working in SIM UK's ENGAGE programme. ENGAGE seeks to recruit and place gospel workers, very often from the global south, with UK receiving churches specifically to help the church reach out to surrounding ethnic communities with God's good news. For the majority of this time Tim has been the sole ENGAGE worker seeking develop this UK receiving function. In the last two to three months that has changed as two other workers are now involved in the programme. Tim McMahon has been the SIM UK Director of Strategic Development for some time but along with the SIM UK office relocation comes some internal organizational restructuring as well, and Tim has now become the substantive SIM UK Cross Cultural Ministry Director. In short – my boss. At the same time, Neil Parmenter has also joined the programme. Neil has spent several years serving with SIM in South Africa and having returned to the UK he is also working two-days a week in ENGAGE. One of the challenges often faced in the past has been linking ENGAGE receiving activities to the central organizational and administrative function of SIM UK, thankfully this will now be far easier. Please pray for this new team of three that we will work together as a team to further develop and establish ENGAGE as one of the core function of all that SIM UK does. In our last letter we asked you to pray for several of the ENGAGE candidates being processed, and we would ask you to continue using this update.

- Ram & Keshari are from Nepal, are experienced in ministry and mission and hope to serve with a new church planting network which has the aim of planting 15 multi ethnic churches in challenging, deprived and needy communities. They will be coming for an exploitative trip early 2020, with placement by mid-2020 if all is well. Please pray for them as they begin to raise support. They are excited, eager and enthusiastic.
- Elkin & Nora are from Colombia, S. America and hope to serve with a Latin focused church in London, which is committed to reaching the surrounding Latin community. Arrival would likely be early 2020, although all involved are hoping for it to be as soon as possible. Please pray for them as they raise support.
- Alex was due to be placed in a central London church with the aim to be here by September 2019; however, despite a substantial part of the budget being met by the receiving church, at the last minute the sending church was unable to meet its budget responsibility, and the placement did not materialize. Please pray for Meron as fresh 2020 placement possibilities are explored with the same London church. Meron's sending church in Kenya seem very positive and supportive, as is the London receiving church.
- Lawrence and Elizabeth are experienced workers from W. Africa, and placement with a church in Glasgow is looking very likely. The church needs help in cross cultural discipleship as it reaches-out to many migrants within the local community, and Lawrence and Elizabeth appear to be ideally suited. A third conference call is scheduled for the end of September with a decision to follow. Please be in prayer.

- Geoffrey is a young man from E. Africa. Placement has been explored by Neil with a church in Warwick. A placement decision has now been made so please pray for a realistic response to budget requirements by all involved. Arrival would be in 2020.

A vital part of receiving ENGAGE workers into the UK is visa acquisition, and the need for an organization to sponsor the appointees visa application process. This role could either be filled by the receiving church or by SIM UK, but in the case of those candidates mentioned above, all but one would be looking to secure their visa through SIM UK. Please pray for a favorable outcome to SIM's sponsorship application expected the end of October. We are also thankful for the provision of a grant making it possible for SIM UK to assist with the support costs of candidates, helping make their placement far more achievable. Please pray for wise decisions as funds are allocated.

Tricia continues to mix time between serving as the SIM UK health coordinator and nursing at Maidstone hospital. Her days, nights and weeks are long and intense; please remember her. We took some 'stay-cation' days during the summer when Ben visited which was very welcome, and hope to spend Christmas together as family in North Wales.

As I write Gabby is beginning her third and final year at Greenwich University. A large part of this year's focus will be her thesis requirement; thankfully she is excited about her subject. Her summer has been spent working and travelling, spending time with a South African high school friend in Ireland, a Greenwich University friend in Sweden, as well as her cousin in the USA. Please pray for her as she focuses on 2020 and beyond.

At the beginning of August, we made a quick trip to Nottingham to help Ben move accommodation. With less than six months left before completion of his master's degree having to relocate was a slight inconvenience. He has now submitted his dissertation and has begun his final management placement, so the finish line is edging closer. The mixture of study and work has been intense and demanding over the long-haul so please remember Ben that he may finish well, and as he adjusts to the welcome change of pace in the New Year. Ben is also hoping to make a trip back to southern Africa as a good friend gets married in February 2020.



Michael, Tim, Tricia, Sacha and Kyle

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Gabby's 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday

We enjoy seeing Sacha and Kyle two or three times a month. Sacha has now begun the new academic year teaching a fresh grade 8 class. Kyle continues to chef and has now become partner at a thriving health food provider which offers highly nutritious meals to customers across a couple of square miles in the West End of London. Until now evening has been the busiest period, but the nutritionally balanced menu has proved so popular corporates are looking to establish contracts for their lunch-time employees.

We are glad to see Michael quite often. He continues to work at the same audio/visual company in west London. Being the first point of contact with clients, his days are busy and demanding, but he also enjoys being in the fun work environment. Music, as ever, occupies much of his energy

Thank you again for your faithful care, prayer and partnership.

**WITH OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE**

**Tim & Tricia**

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