

**“God will do far more abundantly above
all we ask or imagine.”**

AMAZING PROMISES

“What an amazing promise from our amazing God and one which we are seeing fulfilled more and more in the work and ministry of Salem. We needed more link churches—welcome Penn Street and Holmer Green, Brill and Ludgershall, Risborough and we have the possibility of a few more—our income was running at 40% below a year ago, but with the generosity of a number of our prayer supporters, the deficit is now about 20%—(thank you to all those who were able to send a special gift)—we met a good number of Asian Leaders and Pastors at the Jewels in His Crown Conference in July, which thrilled our hearts as when we came into this work there were very few Asian Leaders—during the summer the Lord has been speaking and leading over a refocusing of our ministry and we now have clarity and a sense of a ‘fresh wind’ from the Spirit of God—(more of this below)—and so on. Thank you for being a part of all of this and the support you give to us, without which of course we and God’s Kingdom building would be all the poorer. **You are a vital part of this ministry which God has entrusted to us.**

Thank you for your prayers for the Wycliffe Conference, ‘Christian Responses to Islam’ and the ‘Jewels in His Crown

Conference’, both of which were exceedingly blessed by God and oh so fruitful. After the Jewels conference Denise and I went on to St. Chad’s in Handforth, one of our long-standing church links, where she preached and I updated them about developments on Salem, following which we went on holiday to Keswick. We didn’t go especially for the Convention, but while at one of the Bible Readings we were reminded that it was 26 years ago, on that very spot, that we answered God’s call to mission. So much has happened in our lives and through our lives since that we can only give God the glory and thank Him for the abundant life which we have experienced since that wonderful day in July 1980.

“Thank you for being a part of all of this and the support you give to us.”

PIONEERING

This July we received a letter from a Vicar in Berkshire who is greatly involved in inter-faith work in which he encouraged us over the work we had done in the pioneering days of our ministry, but as there are now so many involved in this inter-faith area, then is Salem’s input really still required he asked. At first I saw this as an attack, but on reflection I realised that work and encouragement we have given has resulted in far more people being involved, so maybe there was a really good case for

DEAR FRIENDS...



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us to refocus the ministry of the Project. This was also borne out at 'Jewels' in the way that I mentioned in the first paragraph.

CONSULTATION

So, after tons of prayer and consultation with Denise and others, Norman presented a paper to the Salem Management Group about the areas he felt we should concentrate on, which are primarily the teaching, training and enabling parts of our work. The Management Group agreed that this is the way ahead, so we will seek to run courses like Cross and Crescent, but develop the range of courses that we ourselves write and put together. We will also include teaching on many more of the present day issues

like radical groups. This will mean that the ministry of Salem will be much more focussed on enabling

Christians to live out and proclaim their faith, making a vital contribution to the fulfilling of Revelation 7:9-17 and Matthew 28:16-20. We are also encouraging prayer for the other faith communities in a greater way, which has resulted in 50 copies of the '30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World' booklet, which Salem purchased for use during Ramadan, being used by individuals and groups in different areas. This publication has of course been used in many places since its inception a number of years ago, but this is the first year in which we have really distributed this number of copies.

It is heartening to know that we have 'heard' what God has been saying to us and have begun to make these changes. As we have done so, some new opportunities have arisen. On 21 November we are conducting an 'introduction to Islam' seminar for the

Fareham Community Church, in which we will look at the beliefs and practises of Islam, the issues of the present moment like the radical Islamic groups and ways of outreach.

Denise and I have also been asked to speak to the Church of England Evangelical Council residential conference on working 'on the ground' amongst the Muslim community, what is happening at this time, the issues involved, the difficulties workers face, ways of evangelism and the prayer needs. Bishop Michael Nazir Ali will give the main input on the Uniqueness of Christ and we see this as a tremendous privilege and perhaps a way of sharing with national church leaders what is really happening on the ground.

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Unfortunately, this will reach you after it has happened this coming Thursday 12 October, but **please pray that God will bring long-term fruit from this time with the CEEC and that this vital work would be much more resourced by the national church.** We have sought and gained 'input' from a range of colleagues and co-workers, so we believe we will be speaking on behalf of some incredibly gifted and faithful servants of God who continue to minister in this most difficult ministry amongst Muslims.

Denise continues;

We give thanks and praise for all the good things that are going down here at Lacey Green... what is amazing is that for the first time there seems to be response from the village of Speen. A number of families are beginning to attend - please pray for real contact again to be re-

established between this church and the village of Speen.

BAPTISMS

Also, we give thanks for the three adult baptisms this year. What we think is that there is a real sense of the Holy Spirit's dynamic activity among us. There is a cluster group now meeting at the vicarage which is potentially 15 strong (if they all made it on the same night... pray they do and that we will grow in discipleship). Another Bible study group will start in the village on 31 October and Marge, having joined us from Singapore with her husband David and two children, will be running that. Pray for the daytime group attenders to grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord.

Pray for the administration side of the Church which is very depleted because of the terrible situation we have been going

through here with adultery in the Church by a leader which has affected another leader. Both marriages have split up and we are, and have been working pastorally to overcome all that this means. The Lord is cleansing this place, but it's not easy. Pray for me, I still suffer from pain from time to time though my shoulder is freeing up.

We are invaded by glis glis again at the Vicarage, also we have recently experienced an attack of a spiritual nature and would value real prayer cover. Things are hotting up yet again! Thank you for praying - I need it - sometimes this is more missionary than it was when I was a kosher missionary! Denisexx

Our thanks for you and your tremendous support

Norman and Denise

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