



Autumn update 2020

Dear all,

We trust and pray that you are well and experiencing the Lord's hand of goodness and grace during this time. Once again we offer our heart felt thanks to you all for your ongoing friendship, prayers and support for the ministry the Lord has called us to, that of seeking to encourage the discouraged and to build up the body of Christ.

During this past 6 months of lockdowns and social distancing, in the midst of trauma and uncertainty we rejoice in seeing the guidance and blessing of the Lord in so many ways. The ministry in Cyprus has flourished and the church increased, both numerically and in a stronger sense of unity, purpose and togetherness.

Our Charis Compassion project has continued to be a focal point of practical and much needed help and support for the vulnerable. Including the ongoing support to a number of refugees and asylum seekers, who through our practical support are now fully engaged in the life of the church and growing in the Lord.

We have had the honour of being able to minister and teach into many churches and contexts via the wonders of Zoom. This has proved to be a very fruitful time and we are blessed to have been able to bring the life giving Word of the Lord into many lives. Alongside this we have had the privilege of being able to encourage and assist pastors and leaders as we all learn to navigate this unexpected change of season.



Looking forward

Proverbs 3:5 is a well known Scripture, but if there was ever a time we need to apply this truth to our lives, it's right now. Like many of you, we find ourselves in a season where we are having to adapt to a new rhythm to life and ministry. Yet, our confidence is this, that even in the midst of these uncertain times, as we continue to press into the Lord, He will continue to guide our way and lead us on His right path.

As you would appreciate one of the main focus points of the E.I. ministry is serving and seeking to encourage smaller churches, often working through transition and change. These challenging past few months, has hit some local churches hard financially. Subsequently, this has had a knock on effect to some of our work and ministry, resulting in a couple of partnering churches having to withdraw funding for our EI work. Whilst this is always a challenging situation, we know the Lord has a plan and we are confident that both the local churches concerned and ourselves as a ministry are safely in the hands of the one who knows how to supply all of our needs. Practically speaking, we will moving out of our rented apartment in Derbyshire and in the short term, whilst in the UK, will stay with family or in our friend's apartment.

As we hold all this up to the gracious throne of God, it has given us a great opportunity to re-evaluate our diary, our autumn schedule and our priority goals for the rest of 2020. So below is a quick thumbnail sketch of the next three months (Taking note that due to the uncertainty about various local restrictions, any planning is still subject to change).

September focus (UK)

(1st - 22nd Sept: Packing up our rented apartment in Derbyshire.)

- 5th - 6th Sept: Leading a Core Leaders Weekend at Calvary Church Macclesfield.
- 8th Sept: Michelle ministering @ the Matlock Coffee Club.
- 11th Sept: Leadership development & mentoring session with NTCC (Cyprus) via Zoom.
- 13th Sept: Ministering @ PCFI (Cyprus) Sunday morning worship via Zoom (8.30am).
- 17th Sept: Orientation day for new students at the CCI Academy, Ireland, via Zoom.
- 20th Sept: Ministering @ PCFI (Cyprus) Sunday morning worship via Zoom (8.30am).
- 20th Sept: Ministering @ Bethel Community Church - Redruth via Zoom (11.00am).
- 24th Sept: Fly to Paphos Cyprus
- 27th Sept: (M) Ministering @ PCFI / (K) Ministering @ NTCC

October focus (Cyprus)

Throughout October we shall be continuing our ministry of encouraging and overseeing the redevelopment of the two Cyprus based international churches of; Paphos Christian Fellowship International and New Testament Community Church, Coral Bay.

- At PCFI this involves Michelle and I continuing to serve as the senior overseers, bringing ministry leadership, teaching, discipleship and strategic church development.
- At NTCC this involves us serving as a sounding board to the core team, seeking to bring some fresh strategic mission & vision input and some ongoing practical team development, training and mentoring.

November focus (Cyprus)

Ordinarily November would have seen us fly off to Ireland to teach a series at the CCI Academy. Due to the ongoing restrictions, this will now be taught over Zoom. So every Thursday from the 12th November - 10th December we shall be lecturing Old Testament Studies via Zoom.

Currently the plan would be to stay in Cyprus during November and continue our work there with the two churches.

Ongoing

In addition to the above, throughout the autumn we shall be continuing our partnering with churches in the U.K., assisting them online, with ongoing ministry support, team and leadership development and teaching. These churches include:
New Life Church - Coalville,
Calvary Church - Macclesfield
Bethel Church - Redruth.



More time to write and produce

With the likelihood of slightly less travel within this next season because of the CoVid restrictions, we plan to use our time wisely and take more time to write and to record more online teaching resources with the aim of being a continued blessing and encouragement to the churches that need it most.

Finally, we will be designing and setting up a new and purposeful internship programme in Cyprus for those desiring to grow and develop in ministry leadership and mission.

Thank you

Jesus once said to those early disciples 'Follow me and I will make you ***become*** ...' Praise God that a life following Jesus is a life of 'becoming', a life of discovery and development. It's an ongoing journey of faith and one that, as Encourage International, we are excited to be on. Thank you so much for all your love and support, here are a few prayer points for the next few months:

- *Wisdom and guidance regarding our unfolding schedule.*
- *Complete healing for Kevin's back pain.*
- *Fresh inspiration from God's precious Word in all our preparation.*
- *A favour blessing on all the great churches and leaders we get to walk alongside.*



Thank you so much for all your prayers and support



Do let us know if there is anything we can join you in prayer for.

Blessings, thanks and prayers,
Kevin & Michelle