



Light to the City UK & Ireland

72M people. 97% yet-to-believe



Playgroup: We came to live in Medford this past year with a prayer: God, provide us with deeper relationships and the community that we need and that our kids need. That has come at so many levels, but none more so than the homeschool playgroup and coop that Tanya and the boys have been a part of. We are so thankful for the way that God has answered this prayer and for the friendships with these families.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year *highlights of 2023*

COMMUNITY. BLESS. CELEBRATION.

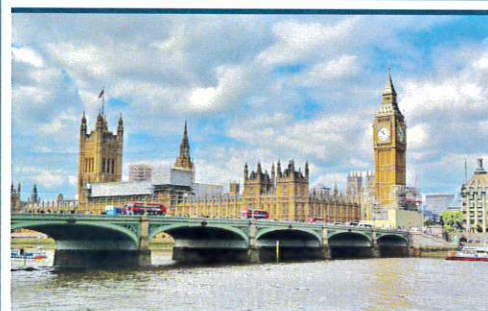
God has **blessed** us with **community** over the past 1 1/2 years in the US and we look forward to the relationships and **community** that will form as we begin our new work in the UK & Ireland. We pray that God will **bless** our neighbors and the nations around us as we seek to love God with our whole selves and love our neighbors as ourselves. **Celebrate** all that God has done in this time of preparation and give thanks for the work God is doing already in the UK & Ireland that we are joining in.



Churches: We have been blessed with great church partners. This time has allowed us to reconnect well. We have gotten to know new pastors in churches in transition, encouraged and supported missions teams, preached, and served youth groups and men's ministries. Valleybrook Church in Eau Claire has become a new home as they have come alongside us as our sending church. We really look forward to what God is doing through our relationships with our partner churches!



UK & Ireland: As we start out in London, there is much to learn, and it will take time to connect and acclimate. We look forward to learning from and with those that God provides and as God shows us where He is at work. This year has allowed connections to begin to form through relationships with King's Church in Chessington as well as connections around the UK & Ireland. Good foundations of relationships will help us to navigate the cultural differences and feel rooted. We are praying that God will move in the churches and people's hearts to see a movement of the gospel across these lands!



Partners: We are so grateful to you, our ministry partners, who have stood alongside us with encouragement, prayer, continued or increased support to meet our budget, and for the new partners that have joined us. **THANK YOU** for joining in this work with us! We look forward to the new partnerships that are forming in the UK & Ireland; with King's Church Chessington where we will start out in ministry, with the work developing across London, in church planting in Essex, and through relationships forming all across England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and in the Republic of Ireland!



Elijah Finn (6) and Oliver Wren (3) have both really benefitted in our time in the US. After 2 long years impacted by Covid in the Czech Republic, where both boys were born, they have acclimated to speaking English, and now have the start of some connectedness to American culture.

Both boys have enjoyed friendships, being a part of an Awana program, and sports this past year. Elijah Finn played t-ball, they both took swimming lessons and both are learning to ice skate this month.

Please do NOT post this letter anywhere on the internet & social media.

THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD

Transition has taken longer than we expected. We arrived in Wisconsin in July of 2022 believing that we would have about 6 months here and then be mobilized back to the field to start up again in the UK. In our own wisdom and by our plan, that's how it would have happened. If we could have jumped directly to the UK somehow, we probably would have taken that route.

But God, in His infinite wisdom, knew our need to be here for a longer time in transition. He knew that we needed to reconnect deeply with partners and be refreshed in our vision for gospel living in the every day. He knew that more time for grounding our kids here in the US after several years of Covid would help us all to move forward. God knew that the grief and loss that we felt in leaving Prague and even hurt, needed time to move towards healing. So this year has been hard and sweet, challenging and refreshing, too long and too short.



Psalms 27 says "I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living! Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"

As you read this, Lord willing, we have already arrived in London. Our travel is only the start of a new season of transition and waiting on the Lord. Finding a house and neighborhood, looking for places and people to connect with around us, connecting as a Converge ministry team, with our new church family. Those are a few of the early points to navigate. The language, English, is not our American English, and we will have plenty of culture and language to learn. Many Americans struggle with the transition to the UK because they think that the language will allow them easy access to the culture. So we are ready for the work of culture and language learning. We believe that we shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living! Join us in praying for God's goodness and hearts full of joy as we enter this new season and the holidays in our new culture and in new relationships.

JOIN US IN BUILDING BRIDGES - WILL YOU?

① Pray with us as we join in the work that God is doing to bring about movements of the gospel amongst the least-reached and unreached peoples in the UK and Ireland.

② Consider joining in the work directly by:

- 1) Committing to pray regularly or join us on a virtual prayer gathering
- 2) Commit to financially partnering with the work that we are doing
- 3) Come to see what God is doing and consider other ways that he may be calling you to join in the work of completing the Great Commission task

Thank you for your generosity in 2023!

You are a part of our team and your prayer and financial support allow us to minister. We look forward to sharing our updates from the field and the ways that God is revealing Himself to us and around us.

Thank you for joining us in this journey and partnering in the work of the gospel. It is our heart to see disciple-makers raised up here and there and many of them to come from the harvest.

We know that many organizations are seeking end-of-the-year gifts during this season and we would be honored if God leads you to generous giving to His ministry in the UK & Ireland. If you would like to give a special gift or join our monthly partnership team this Christmas season see the enclosed card for giving directions.



with grateful hearts, Tom, Tanya, Elijah Finn (6) & Oliver Wren (3)