



The Heaton Family

JONATHAN, GRACIE & HENRY
MINISTERING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



Dear friends and fellow-labourers,

NOV-DEC 2023

As we entered into the christmas season, we were so encouraged to reflect on the account of the word becoming flesh and dwelling among us. The lord has worked in a mighty way over the last few weeks of 2023 and praying he will do so throughout the new year.

Reaching our Jerusalem

We held an autumn ladies' lunch at edward street and were so encouraged to have 56 ladies in attendance. Many were unsaved friends of those who attended our church. The ladies heard the gospel shared clearly as we took the theme of the goodness of god. We enjoyed the fellowship, crafting, food and a Bible talk. We held our first quarterly men's breakfast on a saturday morning where we served a full english breakfast and invited men and boys to come, eat and hear a bible talk. 24 Men and boys attended - 2 being brand new and 3 of our sunday school boys brought their fathers and grandfathers. We are praying this ministry will grow in the coming months, but so encouraged by such a strong beginning. The sunday school ministry continues to grow, for which we praise the lord! We consistently have 40 children attending and they are so precious! We wish you all could meet them and hear them all sing. They are always so enthusiastic. With the number of children attending, it became difficult to pick them up on our 17-seater minibus and begin sunday school on time. After many months of praying with the children that god would give us another minibus, god answered and provided a second 17-seater minibus! Many of the children exclaimed that god had answered their prayers and given us the perfect bus! We trust this will be an 'ebenezer' in the minds of these young people, that they could look back and know god answers prayer and that he can provide for our needs. Leading up to december, we had the local primary school (elementary school) reach out to ask if we could come and give a christmas program to the reception class (k4). Gracie was able to go and give a clear gospel presentation to 30 children and three teachers. It was evident that they were unbelievers and had never heard the truth concerning christ and his birth. This school is located just two doors down from the church and we are praying the lord will continue to allow us to influence our local schools. After many months of praying and preparing, the lord has allowed for the chartering of edward street baptist church. A group of ten believers came together under one body of doctrine to carry out the great commission in carlisle and god willing, around the world! We had such a lovely service as the lord met with us. Our hearts are so full to think of all that god has accomplished over the last year and a half. We are trusting him to accomplish even greater things as we move forward with him with his help. We held a christmas eve carol service and were encouraged to have our sunday school children and teenagers sing and recite a scripture verse. Many of the families came along to the service, including 8 sunday school families that had never attended before. Many first-time visitors attended including two who came as a result of the door-to-door leafletting. The auditorium was full and we enjoyed an evening of carol singing and remembering that 'the word was made flesh'! What a wonderful time of the year to witness of christ jesus, the saviour of the world.

Reaching our Judea & Samaria

Another chapel building has been donated to the Crown Christian Heritage Trust located in the heart of Wales. We are rejoicing at this answer to prayer and continuing to pray that the Lord would ignite a bright Gospel light in this needy area. There was a Christmas Carol service held in December which brought in many people from the town and surrounding areas. God willing, in the new year there will be many events and opportunities for the Gospel to be shared in this place.

Reaching the Uttermost Parts

The open door in Zimbabwe continues to encourage our hearts, though we have not seen the work with our own eyes. God is working in this open door and hope to visit the work soon. Over the month of November, donations were taken from the churches associated with the CCHT. A total of 6 large totes of Bibles, hygiene items and other gifts were sent across and distributed to villages as Gospel meetings were held. Please continue to pray for the Gospel work to go forward in this part of the World! On deputation, as we visited churches across America, we told congregations that we desired to go to England to reach the world from there. We are encouraged by how the Lord is opening these opportunities and expanding His work through the Crown Christian Heritage Trust.

We are debtor...

As many of you know, our pastor in America, Pastor Clarence Sexton drew his last breath on earth and is now present with the Lord. We are thankful to the Lord for the influence, love, support and godly investment in us and our families. God used Pastor Sexton in us both as we trained at the Crown College and now labour in the UK, a burden that Pastor Sexton had for many years. We feel so indebted to the Gospel work as a result of this influence. Our hearts are sad, but rejoice in the Hope we have in Christ Jesus. Pastor Sexton once said, 'Our faith was once delivered and must be contended for in every generation.' The baton has been passed to those who are currently living, and we must earnestly contend for the faith! Please continue to pray for Mrs Sexton, the family, Temple Baptist Church and the Crown College.

- Every Blessing in Christ, The Heaton Family