

Jared & Joy Kleman

Serving in the United Kingdom

Ministry Update:

Spring 2019

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Dear Praying Friends and Family,

Happy Spring! We hope this Spring ministry update find you, your families and your ministries doing well and seeing God's great blessing and provision. We have so much to be thankful for and a load of things to share: from answered prayers to updates on ministries to new ministries starting... We look forward to sharing with you all that God is doing in England, specifically in Liverpool.

VISA RENEWALS: We have been approved!

What a blessing to have so many people help by praying and giving in regards to our visa renewals! In our last update we asked you to pray that God would allow Wesley's paperwork to arrive on time and for the process to go quickly and painlessly (ha!). We are so thankful to share that the paperwork needed DID arrive on time, all of the funds needed to pay for the renewal process was provided, and the process itself was completed in a timely fashion! Just a few days ago we received a letter from the Home Office in England that all three visas have been approved and we are able to stay in the country! Praise the Lord! "Thank you" does not seem suffice for all those who prayed and gave towards this need. It is such an encouragement to us to receive emails and phone calls and text messages about how you have been praying and desire to help. Thank you so much for sowing in our lives so that we can sow in the lives of others; fruit of our ministry here shall abound on your account for eternity. We are so grateful.

Growing Like a Weed

Before his birth we were unaware of just how much of a blessing Wesley would be to our lives and ministry. God has given him such a sweet disposition. He is now four months old and loves to coo; sometimes even cooing himself to sleep (ha!). He loves people (he will let anyone hold him), enjoys music and is such a trooper as he goes to English Classes and Sword Club on Fridays, the church services on Wednesday and Sundays, Sunday School, visitation, youth rally and anything else we are involved in at the church or with Crown Hall! He was even the lead role during our recent Holiday Bible Club, starring as baby Moses! He cooperated like a champ as we passed him from person to person during the skit and even "floated" him in a basket down the "river". The children of the Sunday School adore him; which is great because he will oft times be held at the front during a before programme or lesson or will sit in a bouncing seat while we lead songs or a review game. Occasionally a young person will raise their hand and ask "Mrs. Joy, can I say hi to Wesley?" and then they will go up to him, crouch on his level and start talking to him. Wesley has also assisted with Sunday School lifts. He has needed to ride with Joy on several occasions to pick up the young people for Sunday School. Whenever this happens, the front seat is no longer the argued choice of sitting; suddenly the seat beside Wesley is where everyone races to sit! How precious that he will be able to grow up with this love and friendship.

Winter Retreat

In February we were able to take part in hosting a retreat for college and career aged people. Having outgrown our previous facility, we met at a new location in Wales this year! God used that week in a stirring way— bringing in many people, allowing God's Word to be preached with power, and for those in attendance to be encouraged to do more for Christ. After the Winter Retreat there was a special Gospel Mission in the city of Bristol. Jared was able to participate in the open air preaching and evangelism opportunities as well as the Gospel service. We rejoice that God blessed the meetings as several people from the community came to the service! Please pray for the city of Bristol. It is in the South of England and has a great need for a solid gospel-preaching church.

Ladies' Spring Gathering

What a blessing to have our first-ever Ladies' Spring Gathering on the weekend before Mothering Sunday (Mother's Day is on a different day in the UK than in the US)! Sunday School moms and daughters, ladies from our English Classes and those who attend the church regularly were all in attendance. Joy was able to share a devotional thought on Psalm 40. God-willing we will be able to hold more afternoons like this for women in the future.

Church Chartering Service

On March 16TH we were able to have the chartering service of Breck Road Baptist Church! This was such an exciting day as three people, along side Joy and myself, were able to sign as the first members. It was a blessing to have our Pastor, Clarence Sexton, and his wife and a group from Temple Baptist Academy with us, as well. People came from across the United Kingdom to celebrate this special occasion. The Sunday School youth choir sang several songs during the service and their sweet voices and smiles were used by God to be a true encouragement. After the chartering service, Joy and I were able to dedicate Wesley to the Lord. Pastor Sexton's words of advice, support and prayer will always be with us. Overall, the entire day was such a blessing. The service was live-streamed on FaceBook and the video is still available to watch (even if you do not have FaceBook).

YOUTH MINISTRY: GROWTH, HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB, WORKERS

Sunday School Winter Party: Nearly 60 children (sometimes more) attend Sunday School each week, with ages ranging from 4 to 16 years old. We have currently been teaching on the names of God in the Sword Club as well as sharing the life of CT Studd, England's best cricket player in the 1800's and missionary to China. The children were fascinated when they learned that Studd came to the University of Liverpool to speak during a gospel meeting and that he even set sail for China from the Liverpool docks! To reward their faithful attendance throughout a designated time-frame during the winter months, we held a special Winter Party at an inflatable jumping arena. Some of the young people who earned an opportunity to attend had never been to a place such as that before— it was a very special treat!

A New Worker: We had been praying months before Wesley was born for God to bring someone to the church that was already a Christian who could regularly help us with the children's ministry. On the exact weekend of Wesley's birth, a young woman, who attends the University of Liverpool, walked through the doors of the church; completely unsolicited. In fact, Joy and I were not even there that Sunday as Wesley was just born on Saturday and we were still in the hospital. She told the man filling the pulpit that she was a Christian and, while in university, just wanted to be part of a church that was reaching young people and would allow her serve. After faithful attendance and several conversations in the weeks that followed, we are grateful to say that she has been diligently helping in the Sunday School for several months now. She even taught her first-ever Sunday School lesson in Joy's class just the other week. What an amazing, specific answer to prayer! We believe without a doubt that God has brought her to us "for such a time as this".

Holiday Bible Club: In March we held a Spring Holiday Bible Club (Vacation Bible School). The theme of the three-day Bible club was the life of Moses. Each evening the young people would enjoy a time of singing, Scripture memory, snack time and games. The highlight, however, was the Bible lesson on Moses that was acted out as a running skit. This was the first time (out of the three prior Holiday Bible Clubs) that we had a great group of volunteers to help out! We had adults who attend the church regularly volunteer their time to help run game booths, serve snacks and even act in the Bible skit. At one point during the Bible skit, the "children of Israel" ran from "Egypt" saying, "Hallelujah! We are free from bondage!" The children were watching and listening so intently and couldn't handle the excitement. Dramatically and excitedly all 70 of them began to shout "Hallelujah!" along with the "Israelites" and a celebration broke out for a minute or two before Jared could quiet them down! It was really quite touching to see just how enthralled they were with story of God's deliverance. Over the three days we saw 130 young people come through the Bible club, with 98 being the most young people attending in one evening! Thankfully we have retained most all of these young people and they still attend on either a Sunday, a Friday, or both. We praise God for the amazing open door for the gospel. To God be the glory!

Sunday School Day and Parade: On the 11th of May we were able to participate in the annual Sunday School Day and Parade that is held at Beeches Road Baptist Chapel in Blackheath, England and put on by the Crown Christian Heritage Trust. What a blessing it was to take over 70 people (children and adults) down this year; requiring 5 minibuses and 1 car. Many of the young people from our Sunday School even won medals in the sports competitions and Scripture Memory time, so that made it extra special.

Youth Rally: God has been working through the teen youth rally that is held each month. The teenagers really enjoy coming to the church for a challenge from God's Word and a time of activities. These evenings have been a great way to encourage the older ones in the youth group to be saved, to be faithful and to show that you can enjoy the Christian life. Please pray for this age group in our church. We so desperately want to see them give their lives to God and live Him!

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

In May we started a mid-week Bible Study (service). There was a sweet spirit among those present on the first meeting, which made for an extra encouraging night. We have also been holding a Prayer Meeting that gives opportunity to pray for various needs of the church. God has used this time to really unify our hearts together and we have seen Him bring about specific answers to these prayers. One of the ladies that attends the prayer meeting told Joy the other week: "I have never been part of a church that has had so many answers to prayer! It is amazing what God has done!" We rejoice that we serve a God who is not too busy to care for His children; but a God that answers prayer in His will and way, from the smallest to largest request/need. These prayer meetings and now the Bible Study have been a great testimony to our people, and those in the community, of God's faithfulness and power.

City Centre Outreach

Each month we have a time of evangelism in the city centre where we distribute gospel tracts and have open air preaching. We are thankful for those from the church who come out and help with this great gospel outreach!

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfasts have proven to be a means of great encouragement to those in the community. Each month more men attend, church and un-church. Having the new-to-us oven will help make preparing breakfast for this many men so much easier! We are thankful that God has used this as a tool in which the gospel can be shared to those who perhaps would never darken the door of a church for an actual service or meeting. Please continue to pray for this ministry and for the men who attend.

English Classes: God has Brought the World to Us!

The Friday English Classes have really taken off this spring. Each week we see between 15 to 25 international people come to the classes. We have students from Bulgaria, Chile, Brazil... We have seen several of these students come along to Sunday services, the Ladies' Spring Gathering, and the Men's Breakfasts as well. Each week we have a combined reading lesson during the class where the students are read a Bible account and are encouraged to ask questions about words they do not understand. Just the other week one of the ladies asked during this time, "What is the word 'sin'?" Jared was able to explain to the whole class what sin is and how we can have God's forgiveness. Praise the Lord! It is moments like these that make English Classes even more sweet and remind you of their importance. We are thankful that God has brought the world to us, in a sense, and for the opportunity we have to share the gospel with these precious people in this way.