

London Mission Church of Christ

Spring newsletter, 2019

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Greetings dear friends!

Thank you so much for your continued love and support, it means so much to us over here as Christianity is almost non-existent in our British culture anymore, and it can feel very lacking! Knowing we have so many sister churches over in the U.S. who love us, pray for us, and support us financially, gives us hope that one day the church of Jesus Christ will once again be prevalent here as it is over there.

Since our two congregations in Streatham, south London, and Barking, in east London began meeting as one in December 2018, having registered as "Matthew 16:18 The Church of Christ London" we are enjoying a larger congregation meeting each Lord's day. Certainly cherishing the fellowship among the few who have found "The Way to life," and always looking out for truth seekers who have not.

Building fund:

We have received some fantastic news regarding our building project, a church who wishes to stay anonymous has pledged a matching gift of \$116,000 to any donations made from now until February 1st of 2020. They heard in February this year that we need the remaining \$232,000 to purchase the ground, and have put in writing: "We welcome the opportunity to share in the work in London by helping to purchase property for a permanent meeting place. Our church will match whatever funds you can raise from other faithful churches by February 1, 2020, up to \$116,000.00. We will pray fervently that another \$116,000 can be found so that the ground can be purchased". Praise God! Their generosity will certainly help a great deal in fund raising this summer as I travel the eastern half of the US. I will tell of our Lord's leading, and how His saints in various locations have seen fit to help the church in London to have our own meeting place, and providentially we will reach our goal. It is a great joy to have news such as this; a confirmation indeed from our Lord; "That He who began a good work in us will be faithful to complete it." If you or your church would consider a one-time or short-term monthly gift between now and Feb 1st we would be so grateful.

Here's how you and/or your church can help: We are looking for 26 individuals or churches to give a one-time tax-deductible gift of \$1000, 22 to give at \$2500, 10 to give at \$5000, and one gift of \$10,000. We beg you to prayerfully consider giving, and even spread your amount over the months between now and February if needed. You will be contributing to the construction of the first new Church of Christ in England in over 100 years!!!

We are always looking for ways to help raise funds here locally besides our pledges, tithes, and offerings made by our congregation. The saints here are good givers, and we have \$72,000 in our long-term church building fund here, which was started back in the 80's. We currently have \$96,000 in building funds from the churches in the US; and more is slowly coming in. Both these add up to £168,000.

In our search for a 1/2 acre of land in the Greater London area we have realised since looking for some time now that this will cost approximately \$400,000, so we are still in need of the \$232,000 for the ground. Once we achieve this the church here will take on a mortgage to construct the building itself for an additional \$170,000.

That is where we are right now. We know God showed us clearly that we would have to move, that's how it all began! Exciting times are ahead and we are so thankful for any support to help us towards this goal God has set before us.

Over the many years as we persevere to preach and teach the way of the new covenant it remains obvious that there is much blindness and darkness. Yet “faith comes by hearing” and so we continue to preach the truth of Christ for those seeking the truth! To get to the point; Britain is not a Christian country! If we were more concerned for the hearts of our fellow countrymen – in other words, to what extent they have desired to submit to Jesus, and allowed Him to gather them in – then certainly we’d see the fruit of it in our society, in good things such as no theological confusion, more compassion, no gender or marriage confusion, lower crime, and justice in the courts. As it is, until all our hearts have been cleansed (Acts 22:16), healed and transformed through loving Obedience to His word (Acts 2:38), by the reception of Jesus who is the Spirit (2 Cor 3:17-18) and until Jesus is really put in charge: I wouldn’t dare to call our country ‘Christian’.

Mission to Eastern Europe:

On March 5th I arrived in Belarus for the start of an almost month long mission trip. From here I went to Kosovo on March 18th and back up to Kiev on March 23rd. I returned back to London on the 29th after having served some of the most poor and destitute people I have ever seen, including many orphan children that would simply break your heart. God has given me a passion and made it possible for me to serve on these short term trips as alongside my passion for to see the people of London return to God, and He sees fit to allow me to continue to do this ministry in Eastern Europe alongside many others who serve there also from around the world.



Pics from short visits to Kosovo and Ukraine. First visit to Kosovo, third visit to Ukraine.

The Lord has led us to these nations who are open to the gospel, and supplied us with believing contacts who know those areas of need to help the helpless. We have made many friends in orphanages, shelters for endangered children, rehabilitation centres, families in need, the fatherless and widows. The light of His Holy Spirit is powerful, we are able to be a blessing by helping material physical needs through to the Spiritual.

Current prayer requests:

Raquel Baniquet, Casey and Joshua Freed, Daniel Tapeç, Derek Blow, Debbie Williams, Jasmine Marshall, Shirley Marshall, Norma Marshall, George, Kenny & Celia Miller, Zara Clynes, Ritchie Smith, Patricia Green, Annette Watson family, April, Ziggy and Sophia Sobolewski, Tony and Hassina Kossinne, Hope and Michael Oliveri, Andrew Thomas, God knows their need. Also the Javed Akram family, and his recovery from cancer.

I will be arriving in the States on July 2nd to travel almost everywhere east of Nebraska, looking forward to meeting with those of you I can. I am always looking for new churches to connect with so please contact me if this is a possibility. Each year I travel to the United States, alternating between the east and west halves, speaking of the work here in London.

Because of Calvary we are one in Christ,

- Alan, Luz, Hannah, and Zach