



News from Dave & Georgie

December 2021

Merry Christmas everyone, and a Happy New Year!



Not so long ago: this rather summery picture shows the last time we swam together, which was at Milford-on-Sea beach during October. What a lovely sunny day that was!

Is the New Testament enough?

Have you ever thought about what connects the Old and New Testaments? It is the person of Jesus Christ. Without him there would have been no fulfilment of Old Testament prophecies, and no need of the New Testament! It is therefore so important that in Bible translation we consider giving people portions from both Testaments, rather than concentrating on the New Testament only. This is even more important for majority world audiences that might be primarily oral in the way they communicate, which means they love stories and songs! The Old Testament is full of them, including the story of how the Torah (teaching) of Moses was given to us, in the context of the salvation of the Hebrew people from their Egyptian overlords. An event celebrated in this song taken from Exodus 15, which we quote in English below:

"I will sing unto the Lord for He has triumphed gloriously

The horse and rider thrown into the sea!"

Teaching Bible Engagement

We have four fantastic students at the moment on the Bible engagement course. They are all from continental Europe or the States. One of the reason they are so good is that they have all come with experience of working overseas, or with migrant/refugee communities. They understand the issues. Two of them are third-culture kids i.e. their parents are overseas mission workers. What a legacy those parents have left! I really look forward to reading their essay on worldview, contextualisation, and Bible studies for majority world audiences. - *David*

The Importance of Local Arts



One of the things we teach at the School of Language and Scripture is the importance of indigenous arts of various kinds, such as drama, dance, music, clothing and painting. These arts are the way people communicate with each other in a culturally appropriate manner. That means that whenever we introduce a new custom, as a result of kingdom goals, we need to do it via the arts of the community. What customs do they have? How can these be adapted for kingdom goals? How can they meet felt needs? For instance, there is a festival where Muslims remember how *Ibrahim* (Abraham) was told to sacrifice his son. This could be a great opportunity for eating local food, telling the story from Gen. 22, and giving thanks for God's own son, whose sacrifice made a way for us to be included in God's new community of those forgiven by grace (Eph. 2). It might even be possible to sing some songs written specially for the occasion! If the new custom catches on with followers of *Isa Mesih* (Jesus the Messiah), then a sustainable way of seeing God's kingdom spreading in West Asia will have been found.

Encouraging words as we teach...

One recent overseas student said that being at Moorlands College was, "...one of the greatest adventures" she had had. She went on to say, "All of it has been similar to a simulation of 'real' missions: ...moving to a different country, adapting, facing cultural shock and, most of all, studying with a mixed group of people who are all preparing to serve and being taught by [Christian workers] themselves... The fact that our professors were also [Christian workers] helped in marvellous ways. Their openness, shared experiences, vulnerability and approach changed things. I loved that they saw us as future 'colleagues' and treated us accordingly, rather than having a superior attitude as professors, looking down at us, the students... We discussed a lot about languages and culture and their connection ...I must learn what are the values of the people I am going to serve, in order to engage with them in a healthy manner. However, before doing that, I must dive deeper in my own values... It is crucial to also understand how much your values are influenced by your cultural background and how much they are shaped by Christianity...These two modules at Moorlands have set a healthy foundation in my missionary work and I am so excited to discover what comes next!"