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Things are busy here!!

With the departure of the missionary, Bill is overseeing the church here and there is much to be done. We had a great Easter morning service, with a huge cooked breakfast, which everyone enjoyed thoroughly. Thirteen of us went to the annual Easter Fellowship at sister church about sixty miles away. There we performed our first 'ukulele' special – we still need a little more practice on our instruments, but it sounded pretty good for beginners!

The church is grateful for the hard work of missionary Dave Solt over the past year. He has now left to begin a work elsewhere, after a short furlough, and so we are back in the church planting work again, in addition to our safeguarding and support ministry.

Debra is working full time for the government and is also getting increasingly busy training and keeping about 15 Independent Baptist Churches here up-to-date with new legislation regarding working with children and vulnerable adults. This is a vital ministry – if the churches do not comply with the law, the missionary/minister is committing a criminal offense that carries with it a possible 5 year prison sentence.

We are working at full throttle – and our support is 1/3 of what we need. There is no one else able, at present, to take over the safeguarding training and police checking ministry, which is so vital – will you pray that God would somehow increase our support in order to enable Debra to go full-time into this work. The pressures of her secular job are increasing, and do limit the amount of time she can spend with the pastors/missionaries training them on their legal obligations.

We have plenty of ideas – lots of enthusiasm – and are only limited by finances and lack of time! Our Knit and Natter club is popular and we are making friends and breaking down barriers. This is the most effective way of reaching people here, and we want to expand our outreach into the local community by opening the church doors more frequently with a wide variety of activities that will reach more people. It is encouraging to see our new Christians in church, and those who are seeking also attending services and activities. Bill's young adult's theology class is always a challenge as they bring up interesting and thought-provoking questions.

Will you pray for us? If 30 more churches took us on for support we could travel during the week to train and help pastors put in place their procedures and practices that the law here now demands – we are seriously focusing on this need.

Your continued support and prayers is much valued by us, the people at Victory, and the other churches that we work with.

Yours for Him,

Bill and Debra Smith