

## Newsletter and Prayer Requests from David & Anne

7 March 2023

Dear Friends,

We returned safely on 21<sup>st</sup> February after our time in Stara Zagora – thank you for your prayers. It was a very encouraging time! In Tulovo, the village and community 30 km north of Stara Zagora which is the focus of the outreach work, 'The Gathering Place' is now transformed into bright and welcoming hub for all the local people, and their church has been rebuilt and extended, but, more importantly, lives have been wonderfully changed. Three years ago when we were last there the young people were not very engaged with the Gospel, but now they are full of life and enthusiasm – praying, prayer walking the town, and with lots of ideas for reaching out to others and changing their community.

It has been great renewing our friendship with our hosts Margie & Keith and getting to know their enthusiastic young interns, two from Germany, one from Switzerland and one from USA. We've enjoyed teaching about childhood illnesses to families in two Roma churches and hand washing and how to clean your teeth to pre-schoolers at another church. We had a good teaching and discussion time about Drugs and Substance Abuse with the young people's group in Tulovo. And a very rewarding two days working at the Christian Health Centre in Lozenets which is the Roma quarter of Stara Zagora, seeing mothers and children with a wide variety of problems, and teaching with an excellent interpreter.



We were asked to speak at a "Couples' Evening." They were expecting 10 couples but 20 couples came! Strengthening marriages was the purpose of the evening, and we spoke about 'Looking Forward' with the teaching centred on the fruits of the spirit. Pastor Neno, who leads the Roma Church in Tulovo, followed with some powerful teaching about good times and bad times in marriages, and the evening finished with a meal together.



In a few days' time we set off for Tanzania, with our friends Robert and Christine Cleave from St Michael's to reconnect with our friends in Berega. For David and Anne, this is our first visit since Oct/Nov 2019 because of the pandemic. We begin our journey to Berega on March 13<sup>th</sup> and return home on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

We will be bringing with us a lot of equipment for the Neonatal Unit (- 3 years' worth of fundraising!) So, prayers please for 'travelling mercies' as they say in Africa.

All being well, after a night's sleep in Dar, David needs to collect in person a Certificate from the office in Dar of the Tanzania Commission for Universities which is essential for him to be able to renew his Temporary Registration with the Tanzanian Medical Council – complicated! Your prayers much appreciated for this please.

Then we set off with Robert and Christine to Morogoro, where we hope to greet Bishop Godfrey. As well as the joy of seeing him again, David and Robert need to touch base as members of the BREAD Board (Berega Relief Education And Development). BREAD is about to launch a Water Project Appeal in the UK, and Godfrey needs to be kept informed.

And David and Anne need to meet up with the Diocesan Development Officer, Danny Deuli, another good friend, to talk through the Tearfund Church Community Mobilisation Process (CCMP), which is about to begin a new phase in the Berega region, after a very successful 3 years of work.

And that's all before we even arrive in Berega!! Once we're in Berega, we will be happily meeting up with many lovely friends. And David will be teaching and encouraging on the Neonatal and Children's ward and in the community. Anne will find her way to the local Primary Schools and the Church School, and of course we'll all be at Church on the two Sundays we are there.

Much to look forward to, and no doubt many challenges. Thank you again for your prayers!

With our love, *Anne & David.*