

Pauline's Pages

MISSIONGO

MissionGO, PO Box 2010, Buffalo, NY 14231

Newsletter no.86, July 2021

It's July already and I've just noticed I haven't written a newsletter since January so apologies for that lapse, especially to those I've not been in touch with by other means.

In that January letter I asked you to pray about the consulting session with the Dhongo team in Aru. Difficulties with the travel arrangements and illness of on translator delayed the start but we had a good session making good progress with the gospel of Luke though not quite finishing it. Since then another translation consultant has worked with the team and I've been able to give more advice from afar, helping to iron out some technicalities as the team prepare the book for typesetting. The final steps

have been frustratingly slow for them, partly due to one translator being ill and to the fact they have no internet access in their home area and have to travel a considerable distance to exchange drafts and corrections with the consultant. **Please pray that they will be able to complete the task soon so this gospel can be typeset and printed in the coming months and this first ever printed Scripture in the Dhongo used in the church.**



On returning to Bunia from the Dhongo session I had just five days to simultaneously pack my bags for England and pack up my belongings and move out of the house I had been living in before starting my journey to the UK. Despite uncertainties about what the covid requirements would be on arrival at Heathrow the two day journey went smoothly and I began to make not just the usual adjustments to returning to UK life but



the even stranger ones of life under covid restrictions. Those restrictions have obviously severely curtailed my options for visiting churches, friends and supporters, which is one of the main reasons for my coming to the UK. Zoom has thankfully provided the possibility of connecting with and updating some Bible study, fellowship and prayer groups both at my home church in Aylesbury and beyond (even as far as the USA!). I'm very grateful for those opportunities and it's been lovely to see so many friends, old and new, at least via a screen, but it just isn't the same as interacting with people in the real world. So, since restrictions in the UK were eased somewhat at



the end of May, it's been a joy to start making real live visits with mini-tours of the NE and then the SW of England as well as locally nearer to Aylesbury. My diary is filling up for the months ahead but if there are openings for me to visit you, your church or another group, please contact me soon. **Please pray for upcoming visits and a good use of my remaining time.**

Before and between the travels I've continued to be involved with some of the Bible translation work in the DRC. In addition to the Dhongo project mentioned earlier it's exciting to see the Lese team nearing the end of Mark's gospel (their first) and being able to offer some last-stage advice to prepare the translation for typesetting. **Please pray**



that this team too can finish off the few remaining details so that this gospel can typeset, printed and put into use in the Lese community.

Update on eastern DR Congo

Sadly the level of violence and insecurity caused by numerous armed militia in the eastern provinces of the DR Congo has worsened in recent months, especially in the southern part of Ituri province. Some of the translation programmes have been badly affected. **Please pray for relevant authorities at all levels to make concerted efforts to bring the situation under control and end the violence.**

The church in the area (both individual Christians and organisations) is stretching itself to exceptional lengths to bring help and comfort for those worst affected (orphaned, widowed, left destitute after the burning of their homes and more). **Thank God for their sacrificial giving of themselves despite their own restricted means and pray for renewed energy, emotional and physical, and for resources as they continue their ministries.**

At the same time, while covid 19 affected the DRC far less than many other countries in the early months of the pandemic things seem to be changing. In the last few weeks the official infection rate in Ituri province as shot up 20-fold. **Please pray this doesn't run out of control and that people will get vaccinated when possible - 20,000 doses have arrived in Bunia but there's a lot of false information circulating which is making many people hesitate to be vaccinated.**

Ahead: I'm very much looking forward to a few weeks in the Lake district in late July and early August. I plan to attend one week of the Keswick convention and volunteer there the following week. All that will be hopefully preceded by a few days with a friend near Appleby-in-Westmoreland and followed by a few days in the Coniston area. That combination will hopefully provide a refreshing combination of spiritual input, time with friends and the chance to run and walk the fells, drinking in the beautiful views and tuning out for a while from demands of my ministry (much as I love it.) Thank you to the people who have lent me the necessary camping equipment! **Please pray I'll have an enjoyable few weeks - whatever the weather!**



*Many, Lord my God,
are the wonders you have done,
the things you planned for us.
None can compare with you;
were I to speak and tell of your deeds,
they would be too many to declare.
Ps 40:5. NIV (2011)*

You will have noticed several prayer request scattered through this letter. **Please add prayer for a new tenant for my house in Burnley (after some necessary repairs).** Here also are some points for **thanksgiving and praise:**

- ★ I'm also double vaccinated against covid. - Such a privilege
- ★ Opportunities I've had to reconnect with friends and churches.
- ★ The peace and security we mostly enjoy in the UK.

*Thank you for your
interest and support,*

Pauline

- ★ The publication of Luke in Bila and Acts in Vanuma - prayer items from my January letter.
- ★ At the end of June I got a NHS dental check-up despite having been previously told it would take 6-8 months! And, no treatment is needed.

Please stay in touch:
By ✉ pklinton@gmail.com
By ☎ 07942 269024 (with WhatsApp & Signal)
By 📍 39, Walton Dene,
Aylesbury,
HP21 7LQ

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