

## Steve and Gill Bryant's Prayer News October 2017

Dear Friends

Greetings from West Wiltshire, where the autumn colours are beginning to develop and some of the leaves are already falling off the trees. It is 6 months since our last letter, so there is a great deal to share and thank God for.

### Conferences in Germany

In May we took part in two conferences in Germany. The first was for sending office staff and trainers in WEC's branches around the world. It was inspiring to meet people from so many countries involved in sending missionaries, particularly those from countries that until recently were mission fields themselves. We were able to give input by running seminars on several topics – helping families to make good plans for their children's education, training on what it is like for a family to live in a restrictive society, and explaining the need for training for staff going overseas to work with MKs (missionary kids). The second conference was a multi mission event run by the European department of Global Connections, (the umbrella organisation for mission agencies in the UK). The main focus was on debriefing families, with very helpful sessions taught by Christian Quartier, who runs an organisation called RESAM (Network of support for missionaries). Steve gave seminars on multi lingualism, educational planning and special needs.

### TCK book

A highlight of the last few months was the publication of our new book, *Serving at the ends of the earth: family life and TCKs*. It's the result of several years of painstaking work! Numerous copies have already been sold around the world and we are really happy that people are finding it useful. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact us.



### MK Staff Training



In our last prayer letter we asked for prayer for our MK Staff Training course, which we held at our church for the first time ever. This involved a lot of extra work and preparation, as we had to organise accommodation, transport and catering in addition to teaching the course. Despite the extra workload, we were delighted by the response from Corsham Baptist Church and from the locally based members of WEC International who came to help. Everyone was accommodated by church members and many volunteered to help with catering,

shopping and driving. In addition one of the church pastors and two retired pastors gave devotional talks to the group, and church members were invited to meet the participants at a couple of evening meetings. We had an age spread of 18 to 67 and a range of nationalities: Brazilian, Kenyan, Hong Kong Chinese, German, Austrian, Belgian, French, British and Korean. Most of them are now in their places of service - BCS in Senegal, Korea, the Czech Republic and the Middle East. We are praising God that the enthusiasm of the church was such that they have agreed to host it again in 2018.

### **Forthcoming work**

The next two months will be very busy. At the time of writing Steve is preparing to fly to Chiang Mai, Thailand (on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>) where he will be until 27<sup>th</sup> October. There are two main purposes for the trip: visit the WEC boarding home for Grace International School, where some of WEC's MKs live, and attend Asiacon, a large regional WEC conference with around 200 people, mostly leaders from the four areas in Asia where WEC works. While there he will give presentations and run question and answer sessions on safeguarding. Please pray that he will be able to give effective support to the boarding home staff and teach the safeguarding sessions well.

November is best explained using the dates below, colour coded: Steve only for the blue ones, both of us for the green ones.

31<sup>st</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> – teaching safeguarding to new WEC workers being trained in Coventry prior to going overseas; 6<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> – short break in Eastbourne; 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> - Skype training for new BCS staff from South America; 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>, practical jobs on Michael and Bethany's house in Wales; 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> – training in Worthing for a couple heading to Thailand.

### **Visit to Senegal January 2018**

Steve is planning to visit Senegal in January/February 2018, to spend time at Bourofaye Christian School. It is three years since his last visit so it will be good for him to see the school and update our understanding of how things are currently working there.

### **Gill's students and migrant friends**

Gill teaches English to ladies from South America each week, and also spends time with her migrant friends. Pray for the development of these relationships.

### **Family news**

Michael and Bethany are now in Sierra Leone where they are working at a clinic in the east of the country. They face many challenges, especially trying to balance the heavy day-to-day workload with their desire to train local staff and help to develop the clinic's long term strategy. They will be there until June 2018: please pray for their effectiveness, health and safety and that they will be able to make a long term difference during their ten month assignment. David continues to be busy with garden work and is involved in his church. Peter is now part of a church plant in Nottingham. He enjoys his job in the railway engineering consultancy sector.

Steve's parents are keeping quite well for their age. His dad, Clive, is much improved since our last newsletter.

Thank you for your prayers, friendship and interest in our work. God bless you!

Steve and Gill