

SUAREZ UPDATE

|| "...and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." || Genesis 12:3 ||

A few Statistics for you :

- 23,600 people came to live in NI in 2018
- 30,000 Polish people in NI
- In 2011 census approx 4000 muslims lived in NI. However the Belfast Islamic Centre claim there are now approx 15,000 Muslims from 40 different countries of origin in NI.
- As of December 2019, there are a total of ten Islamic centres in NI
- By 17 October 2019, 1637 Syrian refugees had arrived in Northern Ireland

We also managed to fit in 2 nights on the way home with Auntie Joy who lives in Birmingham - precious memories!



Review of recent trips to England

We recently made 2 trips to Coventry, England. One to attend the WEC Annual Conference, where we caught up with some old friends as well as meeting many new folk. We also took the opportunity to visit the new HQ.



The second trip was to attend an Orientation Day as well as doing a mini 'road-trip' to various Neighbours Worldwide (NW) ministries.



"Neighbours Worldwide aims to reach unreached ethnic groups in the UK and Ireland. Working alongside existing churches, Neighbours Worldwide workers teach English, lead Bible studies, visit families, give out Christian literature and do all they can to share the gospel in a relevant way." We went to Walsall, Birmingham city centre,



Derby, Coventry and Leicester. Our aim was to meet others who are already established in their ministries and learn from them. Also to get to know some of the NW team in England, as we are now part of this team. We really enjoyed the trip and learnt so much. Each ministry is unique to their area, trying to work among the unreached foreign nationals, many who are now coming to the UK from countries that are closed to the gospel. What a great opportunity we have. There are broadly two main groups - those who are settled in the UK for many years, and those who are just recently arrived. The strategy to work alongside each group is different as their needs are different.

This was Eliab's first plane journey, which he seemed to really enjoy!



Praise God for ...

- God’s care and protection in so many ways this past year and His guiding hand in our ministries
- Eliab’s continued good health and development

Please pray for ...

- For opportunities as we continue to try to connect with foreign nationals in our local community
- Those who are far from their homes and families now living in our country - that they will meet Christians who will show them the love of God and make them feel welcome and safe

Coming up ...

- Language studies for us both
- Some speaking opportunities
- 17 - 20 February Avisai will travel to England for the annual Neighbours Worldwide Conference

What will 2020 hold...?

None of us know, do we? This has recently been in our minds. But we live and plan each week and month within God’s grace and we hope this year to continue volunteering at IMP & Helping Hands, reaching out to our local neighbours and undertaking some required training.

**With much love,
Avisai, Judith & Eliab**

Address: 10 The Glebe, Portadown, BT63 5HN

Mobile Avisai: 07516 678 999

Judith: 07719 698 204

Christmas Day at International Meeting Point



While most of us celebrated the day with family or close friends, there are those this Christmas who were far from home - away from country and culture and family. So IMP put on a lovely Christmas Dinner for those who

wanted to come. Avisai went down to help with the serving.



Neighbours on our street ...

It is incredible that in Portadown there are now people from Guinea Bissau! The tiny West African country where I, Judith, was born, and grew up until the age of 15. So it’s very exciting that Eliab can meet our neighbours who live a few houses down from us. When I left Guinea Bissau as a teenager it seemed completely impossible that there would ever be anyone from Guinea come to live in NI! Now Portadown is a culturally diverse town. God is literally bringing the nations to us! We pray for these families living around us that God will bless them through us, and bring them His peace and His salvation.



More Goodbyes

We had to say goodbye to Robert (Judith’s brother) and Kyla and the 4 children as they returned to Senegal on the 6th January. Saying goodbyes never gets any easier, especially with the children. But we trust each other into God’s loving care.

