

Henry's Happenings March 2022

Dear Family and Friends,

Looking back over these past months a lot has happened but a highlight was Hannah and Mark's wedding in October 2021. In the midst of all the uncertainty of travel, the whole family were able to be there, Lena from Czechia and Daniel from England. So here we all are just a couple of days before the wedding. You can see the grandkids are growing, and Quin the setter has joined the tribe!



Thursday was our family day. Friday, we joined with Mark's family, and Saturday together we set things up for the ceremony among the trees along the Madawaska River on the edge of Algonquin Park. Yes, it was a great time together. After the wedding I stayed on for a couple of weeks in Canada to meet with some theologians who have a deep burden to provide theological training for the many new churches that are popping up all across the Arab world, and among the Arab immigrants in Europe. It is a privilege to work with these men, one of whom is a Syrian brother who used to work with me at the orphanage!

I returned from Canada to N. Ireland via Holland where I met up with one of my former boys at the orphanage who had just married a Dutch lady. I was able to spend a few days with Wassim and Heleen before they returned to life and ministry in Lebanon. I praise the Lord for many of these former 'orphanage boys' now getting married and living as witnesses to Jesus in Lebanon.



A couple of weeks later in November I was in Germany for a Europe wide prayer conference for the mission. I had the privilege of speaking one day. It was greatly encouraging to be part of this group of intercessors. Our theme was 'Come to the King's Table!'; Each day we had a sub-theme related to the King's Table; 'Come as you are, Come hungry and thirsty, Come for the lost, and, Come and celebrate!'

In January I traveled to Azerbaijan to meet with our team there. They are a small team of ten and, in what is increasingly normal in modern mission teams, they come from 4 different nationalities. Until everyone learns Azeri fluently, they communicate in English. The potential for misunderstanding is great, but





what binds them is stronger; a love for Jesus and a call to the Azeri people. It was a joy to be with them, to lead them in devotional messages each morning, as well as some training sessions on building team unity and making decisions together. As this was my first visit to the country, I enjoyed looking around the old city of the capitol Baku, surrounded by modern buildings like the 'flame towers' flaring upwards.

Then in February I was completely shocked by a surprise

60th birthday party arranged by friends at church. I don't know how I didn't twig on, but as I burst into the church hall and the lights went on, there were friends and family gathered to celebrate. I was really blessed. It was amazing to see my brothers, sister and their spouses over from England, cousins from both the Bell and Whitten side of my family. My son Daniel had come over with his girlfriend Jasmine. Then so many from the church who



had baked cakes and also prepared a feast of food.

A long-term colleague and friend from Switzerland, Silvia, was also invited to the birthday surprise. Over the past months we have felt the Lord leading us into a relationship. We both have served with the mission in the ME and share a common vision and burden. Please pray with us as we seek the Lord for the future; for His guidance and way ahead.

In addition to these trips and events mentioned, I keep myself busy with on-line speaking and training. I have been running three courses for leaders and members of the mission. However one just ended in February and another will end in March. The third continues through the year.

I continue to work on getting an agricultural project in Asia registered that would allow me and a team to live and work in a closed land. If this comes through I hope to move there in September.



As I look forward to 2022, I look back over 2021, with thanks for the Lord's enabling, protection (a motorcycle accident I walked away from, Covid that I have fully recovered from), provision, and for you; your friendship, prayers and encouragement.

My thoughts turned to Joseph and Mary during the days before Christmas. For Mary it was a long and difficult journey, she knew the baby was coming, but when would it come, where would they be when it came, how would it all work out, what would the birth be like, who would help her? I found myself asking similar questions, I know something/s are coming, but when will they come, what will it be like, who will help me, how will it all work out? Of course, in the birth of Jesus we see how God undertook for all these 'concerns' of Mary. I was encouraged to trust God also!

As I enter 2022 many questions remain but the focus of my heart is the Lord's call to 'Abide in Him'. Consider the picture of the vine and the branch given to us in John 15. Jesus' words are strong and clear, 'Abide in me' and 'Apart from me, you can do nothing.' It is my desire, as I go on into 2022, to Abide in Jesus. As someone said, 'Settle there, make it your home, hang some pictures!' May you too 'Abide in Him'.

With thanks for all your support, prayers and encouragement,

Henry

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