



FEBRUARY 2022 Newsletter

Same As Before or Better?

We hope that the worst of the pandemic is over although we must all be more careful than before. Oh for the day when we could go about our affairs unthinking! We wonder what things will be like when finally we settle down. The Government plans to build back better. We shall see! We would like to see this happening in every sphere of life, particularly at Green Lane. We will be satisfied to see "normality" to return or do we want something better?

Some organisations have already decided to go for the latter option. Tools With A Mission(TWAM), for example, is one. For many years it has collected, refurbished and despatched many containers of tools to African countries such as Zambia, Zimbabwe and Uganda. This has enabled individuals and groups in the grip of poverty and despair to begin cottage industries and work projects giving them hope and the ability to provide for their families and communities.

This has helped many young people to avoid snares and restored hope, despite them having fewer resources to meet the spread of Covid. The fact that nearly all of these projects have been church-based in the name of Jesus has helped churches to grow and the kingdom of God to expand. Now TWAM plans to spread its work into more African countries. It is seeking a big new storage and distribution in the Midlands in addition to the warehouse at Ipswich. A small church near Bishops Stortford when closing down donated a new van to be kept at Redcar in Yorkshire to serve the North of England! It is seeking to recruit 200 new collectors and refurbishes. Some ambition!

How can we help TWAM make it a reality? Have we got a similar ambition for Green Lane or do we want the mixture as before? Perhaps the pandemic is becoming a call to us to ask ourselves how much of a church we are. Jesus commanded His disciples to go into the world and make disciples of all nations. This applies to all of us whether we ever leave England or not. We need to call a new Pastor. Are we willing to provide all the resources he or she will need? The needs of the local community are as great if not greater than before. Will we become visitors? This needs education from all of us. We should be praying individually and in groups. We should be asking the Lord to guide us into the right paths. We should be ready to work even sacrificially, to do what needs to be done.

May every one of us respond as God wants us to.

Fred

Call to Pray

As we head transition into interregnum we will be introducing a variety of prayer initiatives aimed at encouraging all of the fellowship moving forward.

We would invite folks to join in as you are able. The Prayer for Revival group is run as a WhatsApp phone call on Mondays at 8.30pm with options to text or audio post prayers at any time. And to switch off camera too. Its very easy to join, we add you to group and if you can't join at that time simply click the 'ignore message.. You can also join the call late by tapping on the notification message on your phone.

Among the exciting developments recently is the resumption of prayer walks in the area surrounding our building after the Sunday service.

Those taking part have been able to engage with a number of residents, including a family who we discovered carry out litter picking in our grounds which is lovely of them to bless us in this way.

There are plans to post a virtual prayer walk video on our YouTube channel very soon which will provide an opportunity for us to pray for the neighbourhood and community services at perhaps at a more suitable time when folks can't do physical walks.

D. Hardiman

