

January 2023

Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. - Isaiah 43:19

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It's the beginning of a new year, and we've hit the ground running. January has been a busy month for both the ministry and our household. On the 19th of this month, we celebrated our first anniversary on the field in Wales. It's hard to believe it! In many ways, it feels like we just arrived. There are still so many plans we want to implement and ideas to set in motion. But in other ways, it feels like we've been here all our lives. Wales truly feels like home. We are settled and comfortable. We love the people and the overall atmosphere of the country.

We were privileged to celebrate our anniversary with the Downeys. We invited them for dinner and an evening of planning and strategizing for the upcoming year. We're excited about all the Lord has in store for us and pray He will keep us on track with His will and timing in every area.

I preached at three different chapels in January, including a New Year's Day morning service. What an honor that was! I've also had the opportunity to teach in our Wednesday evening Bible study the past couple of weeks.

The community luncheon club started up again after the Christmas holidays, and not only did I serve my Wednesday afternoon shift, but I also had the chance to fill in for someone else. On the 14th of the month, Ron and I attended a virtual meeting for this year's summer camp. It was a time to go over plans and arrangements, and we were happy to be able to attend virtually rather than driving two hours because we've had a good bit of sleet, snow, and sub-freezing temperatures over the past few weeks.

On a personal note, this week, I passed my UK driving test and am now the proud owner of a UK driver's license, good for ten years. Dana is working towards getting her provisional license (similar to a driver's permit) but isn't ready to drive solo on these narrow, winding roads.

Our terrier, Tess, had a vet-recommended operation to be spayed on the 12th of this month. She came through the surgery and recovered quite well. The vet was amazed at her resilience. The most challenging part for us has been trying to keep her still for the past few weeks and allow her body to heal. She seems to feel great and doesn't understand why she's not allowed to run, jump, and play like normal. Thankfully, we only have to keep her on mandatory rest for a few more days. After that, I'm sure she'll be bounding through the house as usual.

Dana and Tennille have begun intense planning and preparations for the annual town Ladies' Lunch in March and the annual Ladies' Retreat in May. The Ladies' Lunch flyers should arrive next week and will be distributed throughout the town in the following days. Dana is handling decorations and entertainment, while Tennille is handling the reservations and food, allowing each of them to operate within their strengths. As for the retreat, they've also adopted the "divide and conquer" method for that event and are each busily working toward making it a gathering to be remembered.

We're scheduled to attend the Missionary Retreat in Manchester, England, in late February. It's a time of fun and fellowship for any missionaries in Great Britain who wish to get away for a few days and encourage one another in the Lord. We're looking forward to it.

We want to thank you for your love, prayers, and support. But more than that, we want to thank you for keeping in contact with us and reminding us that we're not alone. As we worked to take down our Christmas decorations at the beginning of this month, we marveled at the fact that we had received more Christmas cards this year than we ever did when we lived in the States. While a few of those cards were from friends and neighbors here, most were from friends and family across the pond. Each card brought smiles and warm feelings. We cannot thank you enough. Please help us pray that we will have a significant impact on Wales this year and that we'll see another great revival.

In Christ's Hand,
Jason and Dana Rongione

Missionaries to Wales

JASON AND DANA RONGIONE