



International Evangelical Church of the Algarve Summer 2023 Newsletter

John 4:13. Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14: but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of living water welling up to eternal life.."

Pastor's thought April 2023

Mark Loney

Someone in Vale Judeu once told me that, not all that long ago, the local people in this area had no other water than the rainwater, which they collected in the huge cisterns throughout the winter months. It usually doesn't rain here from May through to the end of October so during the summer, most people would have quickly run out of water and back then, they would have had to go by horse and cart, all the way to Vilamoura to collect the water they needed. Thankfully that is not one of my weekly chores!!



I believe the bore hole was one of the first projects Peter & Marianne took on when they bought this property 38 years ago which has made it possible to transform what was once a dry barren hillside into the lovely garden you walk through on your way up to church every Sunday.

This water has brought life to everything! However, even though our bore hole has an abundant supply of water it is not suitable for drinking and I remember, not all that long ago, having to load up the car with 5L of water from Pingo Doce to keep us all hydrated. Today we just turn on the tap and potable water is readily available!

There is nothing like water to quench your thirst in the Algarvian summer. My mother used to drink Hot Tea in the Amazon and believed it quenched her thirst, but I never really fell for that one!!

I remember one evening, before we were connected to mains water, I was sweltering in the summer heat and parched with thirst. I went to the fridge and hunted for a nice cool drink of water only to find that there was absolutely none left! Normally it is in the door of the fridge just waiting for me, but this day I had to go hunting! I hunted high and low and could not find a single drop of potable water!

I searched right into the deep recesses of the fridge, where no man dares to go! Suddenly I discovered a lonely bottle of Sprite half frozen and stuck to the back of the fridge! I was looking for water but Sprite was better than nothing, so I filled a glass. The Sprite looked amazing with the little bubbles and fizzing sound. The cool liquid touched my lips and then my tongue- it tasted amazing! It was cold and sweet but disappointingly, when I had drunk a whole glass, I had this sudden urge for more. Uncontrollably I drank more and more until the whole bottle was empty! Surprisingly the Sprite just seemed to make me even thirstier than ever before and I stood there in the sweltering heat with my tongue hanging out. Oh for just a sip of water!

When we come to the Gospel of John chapter 4, we read the story of a woman who was thirsty. She had a thirst that seemed to be unquenchable. You may say, “how can this be? Was it not Jesus who was thirsty in the story?” “Was it not Jesus who asked the woman to give him water?” Well, it was, but nothing Jesus did was ever without a purpose. You see, even though Jesus did ask the Samaritan woman for a drink, Jesus was also using his own physical thirst to start up a conversation with her. Jesus had the amazing ability to use things that people were familiar with to teach very important lessons! Jesus was, what you might call, using the opportunity of his own physical need to show this woman her own spiritual need! What was this woman’s need? Jesus could see right into the soul of this woman! He knew who she was – Everything about her and He knew that she was thirsty.

Certainly Not in a physical sense, as she was standing at the well and could draw water at any moment! Jesus could see that this woman was unstoppable in her pursuit of something to satisfy her. She had an emptiness inside of her that was driving her insane! It was “a drive” to quench a thirst – Fill the void. In her pursuit of satisfaction, this woman had tried many things! She had stood at the door of the world and peered into the deeper recesses of all that this world has to offer in search of something to satisfy. It was like me trying to quench my thirst with Sprite when really, all I needed was water! What was this woman’s bottle of Sprite? Well to put it bluntly – Men. Jesus said to her that she had had five of them and the one she was with at the moment was not her husband!

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Like many in the world we live in, this woman had fallen for the age old lie that sinful pleasure satisfies. You see, sin is sweet! Sin gives pleasure! Anyone who says otherwise doesn't know what they are talking about. Any sin **is** pleasurable, but the reality of sin is that it is like Sprite.

It is sweet and feels so good as it goes down, but it does not take away our thirst. It does not fill the void within a human being. It is that age old fruit that the enemy of our souls seeks to snare us with; offering us something apparently delicious when, in truth, it only makes us more thirsty! Jesus got to the point of her problem. Some women might say "men are the root of all women's problems" Well, in her case it wasn't so much the men, but what she thought men could do for her thirst! She thought that somehow they could satisfy her. Obviously by number 5, she must have begun to think there was no hope. That's usually when God steps in!

Well Jesus gives us the answer in John Ch 4:10

¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

Jesus wants and can give us the best.

The very thing that we were really looking for all along! Something to take away our spiritual thirst!

Only we are looking in the wrong place and in the wrong things! Look at what Jesus said about his water!

1. It's found in Jesus not the world
2. It is a gift
3. It's yours for the asking
4. It's living

It's not in Sprite, it's not men, it's not women, it's not our children, it's not our possessions, it's not fame, it's not fortune, it's not found any earthly pleasure.

Those may be pleasurable and even good in themselves, but alone they will never fill you!

*¹³Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks **this water** will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become **in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.**"*

You see the void inside every human being is so great, so deep, so wide, that only God can fill it.

IF you want to be satisfied, you don't need to look any further than to Jesus.

The Prophet who couldn't love

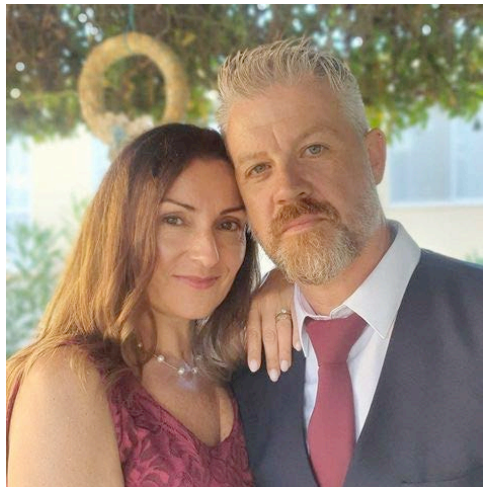
Pastor Barry Henry

The sufficiency of God's Word – Pastor Barry Henry

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. [Psalm 119:105](#)

We all have useful gadgets in our house that always come in handy depending on the situation. I have my headlamp that is useful for when I need to take our dog out at nighttime for his final walk before bed. We have Google maps on our phone that helps us find where we are going in unknown areas. We have our computers that are used to shop online or purchase travel tickets in advance if we need to go somewhere. All of these are great, but they can fail us. How many times have I gone out at night to find out halfway through my walk, that the batteries have died? How many times have I been following Google maps to find out that the area has little to no network rendering my phone useless for the moment? How many times have I been in the middle of doing something important on the computer and the router just stops working due to some problem with the provider?

Thankfully, on our life journey, we have something that does not need batteries, does not depend on network availability, or a good service provider. God's Word.



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Psalm 119 is one long celebration of God's Word. The whole psalm is a celebration of the truth and reliability of the Word of God. It is, as the psalmist calls it, a lamp. It doesn't shine 100 km into the distance but shines sufficiently for us to see where we are going step by step. It is God's Word that reveals to us the God we serve, the God whose faithfulness, love, and power we depend on daily. It is God's Word that feeds us, guides us, teaches us, disciplines us, corrects us, and moulds us as we walk this side of eternity with all the entails and encompasses.

In the age we live in of gadgets and instant information, some tasks become easier. Instant information makes daily tasks easier. The internet can get us that flight we are trying to book in a matter of minutes without having to leave the house, Google maps can show us the fastest route for a trip. But it is only God's Word that can take us through those dark valleys and uncertain times. It is only God's Word that extends promises that do not fail. It is only God's Word that "thoroughly equips us for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:17)



ITLC JAMES

My experience at ITLC has been amazing, When I first came here, I was amazed at the love that this church has shown me. During the first term (October to December) we learned so much through the classes taught by many different amazing lecturers. The first week was Jaime Meaklim from the charity Made for More back in Northern Ireland, we learned how to be part of a community and touched on some of the potential struggles we, as a community, would face. Looking back on this first year, I can see how much that week of classes helped how strong a community the students became through the good and the bad.

The second week of classes was quite heavy, but really challenged us as we read and studied the book of 2 Peter. The title for this section was the theology of suffering! As we explored this topic many of us were really challenged but at the end having grown in more love and knowledge of God.

When we all went home over the Christmas break, we had 3 weeks of placement in January. For me, I was writing a prayer diary for my church back in Northern Ireland (Glenabbey). Through this experience I learned what it was like to work in that church and was taught on the inner governance and eldership team of Glenabbey.

Then in the second term, the topics I feel were very much centred around leadership and pastoring a flock such as the church. We had classes on biblical counselling from Andrew Collins, and even had our very own pastor Barry teach us on the topic of leadership.

Me and the other boys in the student body were also invited to go on a camping trip a bit further north than here with Jurgen from the church.

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This was absolutely spectacular, as we saw the lovely countryside of the Algarve and slept under the stars. Jurgen himself taught us many useful survival tips and gave us a little spiritual meaning behind the trip as a whole. It was one of the highlights of the year and something me and the other guys will never forget.

When we returned in the May for the third and final term, we all felt a bit weird as we knew that we would only have a few more weeks together as a community. During this third term, we had probably the best time of all, as we had all settled in, knew Portugal, and knew each other.

During the second week of this term we had the amazing experience of going to Fatima with Mitch our lecturer to do some evangelism. This really put a lot of us outside our comfort zones and pushed us to evangelise and share Jesus to the people around us passing by. All in all this was the highlight of the term.

To conclude, this year has, I would say, been the best year of my life, living abroad, getting to know and love God more and more every day. I have seen Gods grace and mercy poured out on my life as the Spirit has ministered his word to me through the teaching here. The community life, while sometimes difficult, has been like a refining fire to us, where we are coming out closer than ever in joy and love for each other and our Lord.



Camp Sonshine Review by Tomás

Hello everyone! My Name is Tomás, I'm 20 years old and I am one of the students of ITLC.

I would like to share with you how Camp Sonshine impacted my life.

So the first time I came to Camp I was 14 years old at the time and I came from an Institution which church people support us to be able to come to the Camp.

In that same year I was facing a lot of tribulation in my life, like difficulties dealing with the distance from my family and even getting used to the environment in the institution, so I was very fragile and closed at the time but when I came to Camp a lot of that changed!

Camp Sonshine was, and is, really a place that made and makes me feel at home!

It showed me that it is with God that we find our identities and that it is with God that we can be healed, and its amazing getting to know those really important things, along with so many people that help us, look after the campers, and are able to listen to us and pray for us and also that bring so much fun to us in activities and even on site with the small things like dinners and lunches!



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It was the place where I could put my guard down and could be the real me. Camp Sonshine was also the place where I got to know the Leader that changed my life and was a key for my Salvation!

Not only that but the place where I really had my encounter with God.

I remember that I even came back to the institution already looking forward and excited for the next summer so I could return to Camp and God really shaped me along with these years coming to Camp that, even facing a lot of trials and hardship, God brought me here at ITLC and all that was due to Camp.

Camp Sonshine really changed my life and it was a crucial part of God's plan for my life, for it was the opening and place that got me following his words and Plans for me!



Please pray for Camp Sonshine this year 10th July - 28th July. Continue to pray for the students as they leave and go to their various homes that they will hold on to what they learn and that many will have testimonies like Tomás.

Revive article by Shannon Kidd

Revive for me, I have to say, can be described in one word, Joy.

Each week we have seen answers to prayer and real excitement with our young people growing in their love for the Lord. Additionally, we have been able to see that our young people have a heart for their friends and are often inviting others from their schools to experience the love and joy they feel each Friday night.



So over the last few months the teaching topics have been Encounter Jesus. His encounters with people we can read in the bible and most recently this term has focussed in on leaders own personal encounters with Jesus in their lives. God has blessed Revive through the college and within the Church body with amazing leaders who are so different, which creates such colourful diversity through these testimonies and in our leadership qualities.

There has certainly been a ‘Camp countdown’ this term as excitement builds for July. With many of our young people for the first time stepping into an LIT role, returning as a camper and of course first timers! As leaders we recognise the real honour it is to journey alongside these young people each week and then see them experience camp.

I am so thankful for the joy, laughter and privilege its been to serve at Revive over the last 3 years. Please do continue to pray for this growing ministry within our church, these young people are the next generation, they’re excited to serve and hungry to know more!

Serhii Antypenko

Pastor to our Slavic ministry

My name is Serhii Antypeko, I was born in the city of Chernihiv, 150 km north of Kyiv, not far from the border with Belarus, 70 km. On February 24, 2022, at about 6 am, when I was about to go to work, my mother called me and said that Russia went to war with Ukraine along the entire border line from north to south. And they are heading in a column of tanks towards Kyiv through my city. And they are already 50 km from my beautiful hometown. She passed this information on from my stepfather, who is a policeman and was preparing for the defense of the city.



I went out of the house to the street, the sky began to barely lighten. And I heard in the distance two strong muffled explosions, then a short pause, and then the roar of a siren coming from the city. My house on the north side of the city, and I had a clear understanding that soon they would be here. I also understood that if these beasts decided to go to war, the worst was yet to come and it would be for a long time. I understood that it was necessary to evacuate as soon as possible, no matter where, the main thing is away from death.

I called my relatives to look for ways to evacuate while there is time, a matter of hours. I didn't have a car, so I knew that my family depended on someone to take us out. But a car for most Ukrainians is more of a privilege than usual. Therefore, only a few people had a car from my circle of friends. Although I had a driver's license, but I had never driven a car before (typical for Ukraine). I knew the theory but had no practice.

So, I didn't see anything more sensible than just lying on my bed, praying to God, and surrendering myself to His will. It may sound crazy, but I knew that it is in a state of fear and panic that people do crazy things and destroy themselves. All I knew I needed now was God's guidance and the ability to see the situation through His eyes. I asked Him to give me wisdom and protect my family and my country. Then I continued to act and be in touch with my people. Until I saw an opportunity to evacuate, I decided that it was worth stocking food and preparing a bomb shelter at my place.

But then my stepfather called me and told me to pick up his car and take my family somewhere far away, because soon the city will be blocked. There was no time to think and be afraid. I only managed to grab my documents in order to get to his car as soon as possible and leave the city, which was overtaken by panic and confusion.

We stuffed as many people as we could into the car, leaving all the material possessions behind as we had absolutely no time to salvage anything. But not all people were ready to leave their home, for example, I had to force my mother to leave. Because a person is very inclined to become attached to his place and it is often difficult for him to go into the unknown.

Therefore, some people hold on to their homes and property literally to their last breath. So, after a few hours, we managed to leave the city and joined, along with other members of my church, a convoy of cars that were heading away from terrorist Russia (Ukrainians cannot call this country otherwise).

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We were all in shock, and adrenaline only supported us. We drove very slowly for several days in long lines of cars deep into Ukraine and then to the Polish border, where, by the grace of God, I was allowed to leave the county with my mother and grandmother. And our church scattered around the world.

Beyond the Polish border, the Poles met every Ukrainian, offered them food and invited them to their homes. I was deeply touched by their kindness and I will always be grateful to the Polish people, they are real brothers. They gave me chocolates, offered to fill the tank of my car.

Departing from Chernihiv, we had no idea where we would end up. We just knew we had to leave our city. The only contact I had outside Ukraine was with my uncle, but the only problem was that he lived in Portugal, 4,000 km from where we crossed the border into Poland. My uncle in Portugal invited us to come to him.

We stayed in Krakow for a few days, I was able to sleep for the first time. I was looking for a mechanic to get my car ready for the long journey. This man worked with my car all day, changed some parts at his own expense,



Ukrainian Bible
Study

It never ceases to amaze me how amazing kindness can simultaneously manifest itself in this world against the backdrop of total evil.

With great respect for Poland, we just drove south through Poland, Germany, France, Spain and finally Portugal. The journey took us two days, I drove on the autobahn day and night with the understanding that I was heading to my new home. 6 years earlier I felt called to serve God in Portugal, but I thought it was my selfishness, because I am more useful to Him where I grew up. At that moment, I could not even think that God had a calling for me to serve my people in Portugal, of whom there are so many here. I traveled along the autobahn and prayed to God to direct me to the right church. Without exaggeration, this is what I craved the most.

And we arrived exhausted, sleepless, and petrified by the shock of all that had happened. While we were happy to find a place to sleep and eat properly, we were too many people living in a very small apartment in Loulé and wondered how we were all going to cope. My uncle and aunt were very kind to us, and the next day my uncle found me a job as a gardener and my mother to wash dishes in a restaurant. Although I could speak Ukrainian with my uncle, my English was very basic and my Portuguese was non-existent, so it was scary trying to navigate this new country and start making money to survive.

The coming Sunday I was going to go to church where I could connect with my brothers and sisters in Christ. I knew that if only I could find a church where the gospel was preached, I would be at home wherever I went. At first I searched the Internet for a Ukrainian church, but I did not find it in the Algarve. The only evangelical English-speaking church that appeared on Google maps was the IECA, so on my first Sunday in Portugal, I went to the IECA not knowing what to expect. However, the moment I arrived, I realized that I had found my home. It was so important for me to hear that the church is praying for my country and even to meet some Ukrainians, Nadia and Artem and Ksyusha (who also arrived at the same time as me).

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The first person to speak to me was Glenn, then Bella, then Ruan, and then Mark. They all made me feel very welcome... I knew that by finding this church, I had everything I needed to survive in this new world of Portugal and Algarve. Many people at IECA have shown me great love and I am very grateful for all the help and support I have received.

I am especially grateful to Pastor Mark who cared for me like a lost sheep and became my spiritual father. And also to the beautiful Swedish couple Karl and Inga, who took me and my mother into their home, gave my mother and me the opportunity to live with them and escape from the cramped conditions in my uncle's house in Loule. And also later they accepted Igor, who miraculously escaped from the occupation, after a month of bombing. Through them my mother got closer to God. May God bless them richly. And also my special thanks to Ruan and his wife Fransien, they did a lot for me and Igor!

Putting all this aside, little did I know that God had brought me to Vale Judeu for much more than just my own safety. You see, I had become a Christian (the first in my family) when I was 16 and Church life and fellowship since that moment on has always been a huge part of my life. Right from the start, I always felt that God had called me into ministry. This desire was unstoppable and took me to Bible School when I was 20 and later, when I was 23, I become the assistant pastor in my church. But now, because of the war, I felt that my ministry was over as that church I worked in no longer exists and our congregation is now scattered all over Europe. Perhaps God's plan was just for me to work as a gardner and adapt to a new life in Portugal; returning to the Ukraine was not an option for me. It's strange to me now, looking back, how years ago I had heard about Portugal through my Uncle who had emigrated here 20 years ago, and I had even thought about the idea of coming to live and even serve God here. But I just couldn't justify it and considered it just my own desire wanting to live in a warm climate and pleasant environment more than anything else. My calling and ministry for me back then had to be in the Ukraine with my own people.

However, Our God is sovereign and he prepares things for our good, the good of others and His Glory. Not long after I arrived in the Algarve and started attending IECA I began to see clearly that it wasn't by chance that I had come all this way. It was God who had brought me to this place and even prepared things years in advance in that my uncle would come to work in Loule 20 years ago, otherwise there would have been no reason for me to travel all this way. Before I knew it, more of my own people started arriving at IECA.

I met Nadya and Artem and Ksusha who, to my surprise I already knew as I had met them before at their church in the Ukraine. And here they were in this church in the Alargve! Isn't God amazing?! Then my good friend Igor arrived and many others. We began to meet for Bible Study with Hleb and Alexandra and I was invited to lead the Bible Study for the growing Slavic group. I then began to get involved in helping the refugees who were arriving and settling into the house in Montenegro that the church rented for them. All this created a problem for me, because although I wanted to help them with all my heart and give my time to my people who needed physical, emotional and spiritual help, I still needed to earn a living! I was working all day in a very physically demanding job while trying to prepare Bible Studies and do as much as I could for my own people when I had any free time. I felt I was being pulled in two directions and I knew in my heart which work I would rather be doing! But how could this be possible? It seemed impossible to be able to dedicate my time to the work I wanted to do for my own people. Well, God is amazing and one day at the end of October last year,

I met with Pastor Mark to pray about my future and this particular dilemma. Incredibly, that very same day pastor Mark received a request to meet with someone and to my surprise and joy, what ensued from that meeting was a commitment from that person to support me financially for a period of at least two years. I was amazed at God's wonderful provision for my needs which has enabled me to commit all my time to the work of the Lord here among the slavic community in our church and across the Algarve..

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As I look back over this very difficult time from when the war broke out in my county, although this journey from my old life in the Ukraine has not been easy and my heart aches for my county, my family and my people who are suffering from this terrible war, Today I feel like Ezekiel and Isaiah must have felt who were used by God to encourage His people while they were in Exile in Babylon. I don't know what the future holds for me and if it is God's will for me to stay in Portugal forever, but for now I know God has bought me here for such a time as this and I want to do the work he has called me to do to the best of my ability. I am so grateful to God for all His faithfulness to me and for the love and support I have received from my brothers and sisters at IECA.

I would appreciate your prayers for the slavic community at IECA and also for my country that is ravaged by war and so much suffering.

Yours in Christ

Serhii Antypenko



Visions for the future.

Since coming out of Covid, the leadership of IECA have been seeking God for His leading with regards to the future development of the site and ministry. With the growth in our church over recent years we now see that certain things will need to be put in place in order to provide for the needs of this developing ministry. I will seek to outline them to you as we see them. We want to dream big but start small; one step at a time, believing that Our God is mighty and can do greater things that we can even think or imagine. Here are five areas that we are looking to God to supply the needs for; Financial needs and also for people who can be involved in them.

FIRSTLY: Accommodation for our growing ministry team. We are looking to the Lord to supply sufficient finances in order to acquire some sort of property locally that will provide accommodation for our ministry team. At the moment Judith and I live on site, but due to our evolving role as we get older (that's the reality), we feel that the person living in the house we currently live in, should be whoever is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the site. This has been my role for 14 years since coming to IECA, along with the pastoral work, so it was important that I have been on site during this time. But things need to be structured differently for the future and it is necessary now to prepare the ministry infrastructure for the inevitable reality that whoever comes after me as pastor, will probably not be involved in the practical aspects of the site at all and be dedicated more towards pastoral and teaching ministry. Judith and I have loved living on site over these 14 years but we realise that this type of lifestyle is not for everyone. Whoever pastors the Portuguese and Slavic part of our ministry also need accommodation long term and there is not enough accommodation on our present site for so many people. The most pressing issue at the moment is trying to find some solution for Barry and Raquel and their family. Ideally we could do with accommodation suitable for three families off site. This might seem to be humanly impossible given the price of property in the area but we believe that it is a need that this ministry will require for its continuation and development into the future.

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SECONDLY: The acquisition of more land adjacent to our own property which could serve for car parking and also double up as a recreation area for young people throughout the winter months and space for tents for our summer camps. If this need could be resolved with the acquisition of a property that also provided accommodation for our pastoral team, this would be icing on the cake. There are two potential properties very close to IECA that fit this criteria so we pray that God will open the right door and provide all the finance necessary to make this dream a reality.

THIRDLY. A more permanent solution found for our marquee. The plastic/canvas material for the marquee is presently having to be replaced every 5-6 years which costs a lot of money and due to extreme heat in the summer and damp in the winter, we are not able to make good use of the space for much of the year. We envision the marquee to be replaced by a more permeant structure which can become a multifunctional space which can be used all year round. Again for this to be possible it will require substantial financial investment.

FOURTHLY: Local outreach into our surrounding areas like Loule and Quarteira. We believe that it is essential to have a visual presence in these local towns and go to where people are, instead of waiting for them to come to us. John Wykes has outlined this vision in greater detail in his article on page 22.

FIFTHLY: Outreach to the Eastern Algarve. In recent years we have been hearing of the need for an English speaking church to be established close to the Spanish border. Many expats from many countries around the world are settling in that region of the Algarve and there is a need for Christians to be able to find a place of fellowship and also reach out to those who need to hear the Good News.

On the 3rd of June we enjoyed a wonderful family day away for our church picnic in Castro Marim on the beautiful property of Alex and Susan and their family. We are so grateful to them for making their property available to us and welcoming the invasion of around 100 people that descended on their tranquility! The day was perfect! Not too hot and not too cold! The sun was shining but the air was cool and we couldn't have asked for a better day!



The children played games on the fresh green grass while the adults chatted and spent time together. Thanks also to everyone who brought such amazing food for us to enjoy which was shared with everyone. After our food we gathered together under the shaded pergola area where we worshipped God in the open air and offered prayers to Him for the needs of the Eastern Algarve.



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Alex shared his own testimony of how he came back to God and his and Susan's vision and passion to reach the Eastern Algarve for Jesus. Alex's mum also shared about her beautiful painting expressing the Heart of God which loves and cares for everyone. We all came away truly blessed from the time of fellowship and also challenged for the needs of that part of the Algarve.



If you know anyone who lives in the Eastern Algarve please put them in contact with Alex and Susan who would only be too happy to make contact with them and encourage them to be part of the vision for establishing a Christian community in that area. We look forward to seeing what God will do. Pray that God would rise up a couple (or many) who would commit to living in that area and helping to plant a church in that very needy part of Portugal.

Taking ground to possess the Land

John Wykes

Short summary of Bible Study 08/06/2023 - please read all Scripture references

I want to introduce you to one of the principal characters in the Old Testament that I love - Joshua.

We are introduced to him in the book of Exodus, find important information about him in Numbers and eventually read about him in the book that bears his name and in which he is the central character.

But what do you know about his early life?

We first meet him in Exodus 17 v 9-16. Joshua is asked by Moses to choose some soldiers to lead into battle against the Amalekites. Not only is this a physical battle, but a spiritual one. This is seen by the fact that whenever Moses has his hands raised the Israelites were winning, but if Moses lowered his hands the Amalekites started to win. Moses was not alone, but helped by others. We too are in a spiritual battle, and we need to constantly look to God to help us gain the victory in whatever situations we face. It is important that others stand with us.

We meet him again in Numbers 13-14, where he is one of the 12 spies sent out to survey the promised land and report back to Moses. Of the 12 spies that went to explore the promised land only Caleb and Joshua were convinced they could enter the land. The others could not see past the fortified cities and how powerful the people were. Caleb and Joshua knew that God was with them and they could enter the promised land because God had promised them this would happen.

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In Exodus 33 v 7 - 11 we see Moses in the Tent of meeting. This is different to the tabernacle, and was where Moses went to enquire of the Lord and hear from Him. I believe that Joshua went in as well, after Moses left, showing he had learnt from Moses how important it was to seek God and hear from Him

We also meet Joshua in Numbers 27 v 15-23. Here we see Moses appointing Joshua as his successor. It is important to note that only two men experienced slavery in Egypt, and lived to enter the promised land. One was Joshua and the other Caleb.

In Joshua 1 v 1-9 we see that Moses has died and Joshua is leading the people of God. Joshua has spent most of his life in the service of Moses. He had learned from Moses to follow and hear from God. God tells Joshua to get ready to cross Jordan into the land He will give them.

It has been estimated that the promised land covered an area of 300 000 square miles. God promised that everywhere they placed their foot would be their's, but the Israelites only took a tenth of the land God had promised. Did God fail? Not at all! They had the promise of God but they never took that which belonged to them.

We can spiritualize this. We have the promise of victory in Christ, but it is our job to possess it.

The last passage we will look at is a story familiar to all of us- the fall of Jericho, found in Joshua 5-6. This was a spiritual victory accomplished by God. I believe the whole nation was involved.

In Exodus 23 v 29-31 we see that things do not happen immediately. Possessing the land was going to take time, but they had God's promise.

Taking ground is our task. Every place we set our foot is ours. However it is spiritual work and therefore we may well encounter spiritual attack when we engage in spiritual warfare.

I believe its time to take the land!

Our vision is to reach the people of Portugal with the good news of Jesus Christ. We have a big vision but we are going to start small. We are going to start in Quarteira, on the sea front, by having outdoor worship, and being available to pray and talk to people.

For me its important to claim the land, so on 13th June some of us went down to the area we are going to hold the outreach and prayer walked there. We believed that everywhere we placed our feet we were taking for God. We sat on all the seats in the area and prayed that there would be good conversations.

The next evening 40 of us met down on the beach front. We had a time of outdoor worship. Many people stopped to listen, some joining us. We were able to share with some and pray with others. It was a brilliant time, and that's just the start.

We are planning more of these events starting in September. We continue to pray that we will see fruit.

Finally a challenge!

Seek to see at least one person saved and discipled this year. Do you realize that if each Christian did that this year and every year for the next 10 years, the whole world would be won for Jesus? Let's all pray and see the Holy Spirit do His work.



John Wykes

Fontes Family Journey to IECA Portugal

Our journey from South Africa to Portugal and coming to IECA began before we had even left South Africa. On the tail end of COVID, we started to see a lot of doors closing in our lives. We sought after God in prayer and fasting, and we felt that God had brought us to the end of our journey in South Africa, both physically and spiritually. That was when we knew that we could go anywhere we chose... or so we thought. As we were deciding where we wanted to go, considering America, the UK, or somewhere else, Portugal was far from being in our minds.



One early afternoon, we decided to go to Macro store when God arrested us in the parking lot and spoke to Monique. He had placed in Monique's heart that we should go to Portugal. She said we had everything that we needed: Portuguese passports, IDs, etc. We could leave straight away. So we spent some time in prayer about it and felt a good peace. That was when we decided to tell all of our family. We had some surprised family members, angry family members, and supportive family members. This was not going to be an easy decision or move, but we had in our hearts that this open door was from the Lord.

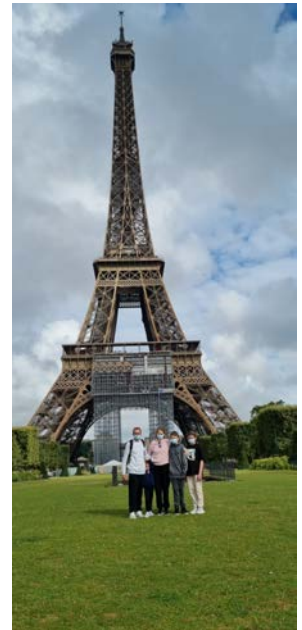
My mother immediately asked us where in Portugal we would like to go. We had discussed various parts of Portugal, especially when we had a family apartment waiting for us in Porto. But we had ended up deciding to come to the Algarve because we had family members down here, and they could help me get started with work. Also, we knew that it was the sunniest and had the most English-speaking part of Portugal. We tried to find the best way to integrate into the Portuguese community coming from an English-speaking country. The daunting part was that we were not going to find it easy.

So we bought our tickets, packed up our house, and sold and gave everything away within 3 months. We got the relevant documents that we needed within that time frame. On our last Sunday lunch with my family, my mom asked which church we were going to go to there... really?? Asking that question now when we hadn't been to any churches in the Algarve, and we were shaking in our boots as we were going to a new country to live in, even though we had been multiple times to visit family. My mom then mentioned a church that we had to go and visit... IECA. Can you believe it? Okay, okay, we will, I replied.



The day we arrived at the airport in South Africa, ready to leave for Portugal, was the best day of our lives. We were so excited. We first landed in Paris and went out of the airport to see the Eiffel Tower. We made our way back to the airport and stopped for a quick bite to eat. That was the best McDonald's I ever had. I'm not sure if it was because France makes the best burgers, or if it was because we were hungry, or if it was the absolute excitement.

We left France and landed at Faro Airport. We had the experience of catching a taxi with a mountain of bags and our only belongings. The driver drove us to Olhão and dropped us off on the pavement of the fisherman's port. We looked at each other and asked, "Now what?" We did not have keys to the apartment that we rented for the month. Everyone was looking at us as they passed by. I could only imagine what was going through their heads as I looked at their facial expressions. We even reconsidered if we had made the right choice or not.



International Evangelical Church of the Algarve

As we settled in and started looking for schools for the kids, we found a school in Almancil where we found absolute peace when we went in. Even though it wasn't what we expected, the Lord gave us peace. The kids were happy to go to school there. We then decided to look for a church and were reminded that my mom had mentioned a church in Vale Judeu. We arrived at the church and were immediately welcomed. We sat down, and they announced that there was Sunday school. We asked Gracie if she wanted to go. They told us that a lady named Bev was going to do Sunday school. I went with Gracie to the Sunday school classroom and left her there. We were not sure what Gracie's reaction would be when she came out. She came out of the class after the service and told us that it was the best Sunday school she had been to, and the best part was that they spoke English! Gracie insisted that we should come back as she enjoyed it. Don't worry, we enjoyed the service too. It was a message that we won't easily forget, delivered by Pastor Barry, about the prodigal son. Bev's impression on Gracie was so good that it was the very thing that would bring us back to church the next week... we never went anywhere else after that. IECA has been a great source of encouragement, love, healing, and stability. We love the people we have met and made friends with. Many have become just like family. Thank you to the leadership and pastors who have the vision, faith, and endurance to continue the work of the Lord and share His love with us. God bless you all.



Christmas in May. Jill Kinsey in Lesotho

Ntate Mojela is a great guy. He is a local businessman and one of our Trustees. We hired one of his backies. Together with MeEster they drove up to the high mountains with late Christmas gifts for forty shepherds. Heavy rain had washed away part of the road and created a thick mud area. This was our fourth attempt. The sun shone and all went well.

The boys were delighted to receive packets of biscuits and balaclavas and books. Their very favorite gift was a large block of sunlight soap and a flannel. Can you imagine ! You wash in water, you wash your blanket and your clothes in water. Who has money for soap?

It's a different world. If you gave your own child a block of soap, I doubt they would be joyful!

A big thanks to all the kind folk who donated money for our shepherds at Christmas. Our Pulane shepherds had a Christmas party plus a bag of goodies. Leftovers went to Lazero in the high mountains. I hear they had snow yesterday.

We had snow flurries in Pulane which turned to rain. It's midwinter here.

Thank you for blessing these tough boys.

“He who gives to the poor, lends to the Lord.”

Jill.



A VERY large bar of soap

News from the Orphanage by Jill Kinsey

Sophie was 6 years old and her sister Lineo was ten. They were living on the south coast of South Africa. Their mother grew sicker and died. Their extended family lived in Lesotho. A kind neighbour put the two girls on a bus and asked the driver to help these little girls transfer to the correct onward buses. It must have been traumatic to lose their mother and then face a very long trip to Lesotho.

At the same time a telephone call was made to their elderly grandfather in HaMakae, across the river from us. He was informed that his daughter was dead and two young grand-daughters were on the bus! He was bewildered. He came to see me. He was nervous and at a loss. He said, “what can I do? my wife died years ago. My house is small. I cannot do this.”

Was there any other family members who could help? Africa often has big families. He shook his head. “What can I do to help?” We chatted and I agreed that the two girls could live with us. We have plenty of space. He shed a few tears. Grandad was relieved. Sophie and Lineo were two of our first children to move into our Childrens Centre. Grandad met the bus in MtMoorosi and two very young girls arrived safely.



They often visited their Grandfather. Family is important. Years passed by. Lineo obtained an Agricultural qualification having obtained a university bursary. As an academic child, she excelled.

Sophie always wanted to be a nurse. She has just been accepted by the University of Botswana for a three year nursing qualification. She starts in August.

Sadly Grandfather died several years ago. A sad story but with a happy ending.

We thank God that we are here to help. Please keep Sophie in your prayers.



Sophie as she is now.

Launch of the Algarve Business Network

By Graham Rowan

In among the retired folk and holidaymakers at IECA there's a nucleus of entrepreneurs keeping the wheels of industry turning. It's always challenging to start or run a business, even more so when you're doing it in a new country and trying to enshrine Christian values at the core of the enterprise.

After taking soundings with a number of business owners and self-employed people in the church, Virgilio and I felt that there is a need for a self-help and support group. So the Algarve Business Network was conceived, a logo designed, a website created at Algarvebusinessnetwork.com and a WhatsApp group created within seven days. We entrepreneurs don't mess about...

But there's no substitute for good, old-fashioned face-to-face contact to build relationships and create a shared spirit among like-minded people. So, our first meeting took place on Monday 12th June in the church café with more than a dozen intrepid entrepreneurs turning up.

Our aim is to balance faith-based discussions with practical help and support and that was reflected in the programme for the evening. Each person gave a brief profile of themselves and their business and we gained insights into the wide range of backgrounds and skillsets in the room, from the manufacture of cleaning products to the creation of animated videos. Add in a private members club for high net worth investors, a beauty salon and a design business and you get a flavour of the calibre of people sitting next to you on a Sunday morning!

Two members braved the Hot Seat, where they gave details of their business and invited ideas and constructive criticism from the rest of the room. First up was Bela Tome who talked about the events décor and catering business she is launching with her daughter Shirley and Virgilio's wife Monique. They've already won one contract through their Facebook page and another through the low-tech approach of leaflets through doors. If you or anyone you know would like a discussion about an upcoming event you can reach Bela at wonderlandeventspt@gmail.com

Clive Bydawell's session began with a video of a talking head generated entirely by AI, while his business idea is to enhance the security of holding crypto investments like Bitcoin for high net worth investors. The contrast between a local events business and a global hi-tech start-up shows the exciting mix of enterprises being formed within the IECA community. The group also benefited from the presence of David Ford, whose experience includes running one of the UK's largest event catering companies as well as the Regus serviced office business. He was able to offer practical advice to Bela and Monique while admitting that Bitcoin was beyond his understanding!

Virgilio gave an enlightening talk on Aligning Business Practices with Christian Values including integrating biblical principles with decision making processes, honouring integrity, honesty and transparency in all transactions and balancing ambition with humility and servant leadership.

Formal proceedings ended at 9:00pm but, such was the buzz generated in the room, that discussions in the car park continued for another 45 minutes. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday 24th July in Vilamoura so, if you'd like to take a look at the Algarve Business Network, you can register for free at Algarvebusinessnetwork.com

Photo caption : Bela Tome braves the Hot Seat in front of the Algarve Business Network



Sonshine Tots

Tots is a family ministry we started in November 2021. It is a weekly playgroup for families with little ones aged 0-3 years old. When we moved to the Algarve there seemed to be nothing established for families with young children to form community. We aim to provide an opportunity for little ones to play and interact in a safe and friendly environment and also for parents to connect. Sonshine Tots runs every Friday from 10am-12 in the IECA café overlooking the beautiful Bible Garden. Coffee and cake provided. The children's favourite activity is feeding the fish.



Family Fun Day

Family Fun Fair is an initiative we started in October 2022. It is a bi-monthly family ministry which runs on a Saturday from 3-5pm. Family Fun Fair is an opportunity to connect our church with the local community



through the commonality of having children. We provide food, tea & coffee, cake and a variety of entertainment for children of all ages.



International Evangelical Church of the Algarve

Prayer Points:

~ We need volunteers for both of these ministries as well as Sunday creche. People who have a heart for childrens work and young families. There are many ways to serve, simply by coming along and chatting to new faces, serving tea and coffee, people willing to bake, setting up and tidying after. We also need our church family praying into these ministries. If you would like more updates on our family and the work we are doing our there please contact Kelsea to be added to our WhatsApp group +351 914 346 473.

Site Manager

As I'm sure you can tell, it is full steam ahead for Camp Sonshine 2023. Site it is going under huge transformation. For what is going to be the biggest camp we have done to date. The students have been an absolute blessing over the last month with helping set up for camp. Walking around site it is quite incredible to see just how many people we can accommodate and feed. Every square inch of the site gets used. It is amazing to have so many beautiful areas around site where small groups can be held: the rotunda and the decking outside the coffee shop are where the campers and leaders will gather to get on the buses.

College is completely emptied and transformed into camper accommodation. The marquee becomes an open air dining hall. The top and middle car park and middle earth become a camp site. Around the marquee and in front of college are the "chill out zones". Church is used for the meetings.

It is so clear to see Gods hand in how the site has evolved. Ephesians 3:20 "God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine." I am sure Peter and Maryanne could not imagine 170 people sleeping on site during the hottest month of the year. The site was not designed with Camp Sonshine in mind and yet it lends itself so perfectly to facilitating it.

Many kids have said Camp is the best week of their entire year. There is still plenty to do, thankfully we have a preparation week first week of July where the students will be back along with some of the LITs from youth.

We would really appreciate your prayers for the preparation week. That we would have energy, team unity, servant hearts, good attitudes, and safety on site, both physical and spiritual. And for Matt as he leads and organises this week.

Love, Matt and Kelsea Foreman



News from the front lines of persecution

By BJ Banks



Psalm 46

1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Last week when I was praying about this article asking God what area he wanted me to highlight Psalm 46 came strongly to mind. I read it several times and then was led to several sermons and articles on this theme. God has blessed me with the words from this psalm and the testimonies and sermons that teach on it. To illustrate I have chosen three news items from Open Door magazine and Christianity Today. As His people, He is and always will be, our refuge and strength and ever-present help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea

3 though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

Iran and Turkey and Syria

Open Doors is pleased to report that Sahar and her family are safe from the recent earthquakes in **Turkey** and **Syria**. You may remember that she fled to Turkey with her family from Iran and started a women's ministry. She says the situation is horrible in the cities hit by the earthquakes, Sahar says "We already face so many problems as refugees, we barely receive our human rights and now discrimination is even worse, please pray that God would help all the refugees in this country who cannot go back to Iran or their homelands nor go to another country. Please also pray for people in Iran who are fighting for freedom and justice" We continue to thank the Lord for the Christians in **Iran** who, although imprisoned there, are used by God to tell others about Jesus, we pray that they will continue to stand strong and their families have peace in their hearts in the constant harassments and uncertainties.

Over in **Syria** some believers wonder why something like this (earthquake) is happening yet again. Years of conflict and suffering, they have been through so much over the last 15 years. The earthquake is just the latest tragedy to impact them, and yet, God's hand is still visible to His people in Syria. Churches are working together to bring much relief and Christ's love. Leyla, an open doors local staff member arriving in Aleppo from the earthquake area, told a story of a woman who lives on the fifth floor of a building with her son. Their building collapsed, but both the woman and her son miraculously survived. The son, who didn't believe in God, yelled "thanks be to God" and decided to begin following Jesus. This must surely have been the greatest blessing his mother could receive. Pray that many would encounter Jesus and know His healing peace.

Ukraine For eight months, the Ukrainian city of Kherson endured Russian occupation. Now—along with at least seven [churches](#)—it is underwater.

With the collapse of the Nova Kakhovka dam, a new wave of evacuations is underway in southern Ukraine, with 25,000 people in Russian-controlled areas and 17,000 in Ukrainian-held territory advised to leave.

An estimated 2,000 houses have been flooded, with 16,000 people made homeless. A lack of drinking water, electricity shortages, and floating land mines have contributed to the humanitarian and ecological disaster. **Tavriski Christian Institute** (TCI) in Kherson is a spiritual casualty. Liberated from Russian occupation last November, the seminary's riverside properties suffered a new blow with the deluge. Early in the war, TCI president Valentin Siniy, a past student, evacuated west with his wife, two children, and much of the student body. Today he continues education and oversees relief efforts from over 500 miles away. As we continue to keep Ukraine and her people and our Slavic community at IECA in our prayers, please pray for this Bible College, its teachers and students, that the Lord continues to protect and equips them for ministry.

Democratic Republic of Congo “I have hope that God is present” says Gertrude, a widow from the Democratic Republic of Congo who was helped by Open Door's supporters and is rebuilding her family's livelihood following an unspeakable tragedy at the hands of Islamic extremists. 2 years ago the ADF attacked her family's farmland and killed her husband, kidnapped her son (who is still missing) and left her unable to walk. She is the carer of her sister's 6 children (her sister was killed 5 years ago) and her own 4 children. Open doors local partners have provided an alternative to the farm work and she now has a small shop “I thank God for how He has provided through brothers and sisters, please pray that this will glorify Him.” She goes on “I had many questions but as God is good, I just consoled myself, we all are sojourners on this earth, it is God alone who gives me the strength to be able to bear this pain.”

Psalms 46 was the favourite psalm of Martin Luther and inspired him to write the hymn ‘A mighty fortress is our God.’ Sometimes I have been asked about our persecuted brothers and sisters - how do they stand firm?

How do they keep their faith? How is Hope kept alive? The first article I came upon was by Eric Bristow who visited our church at Vale Judeu many years ago with his wife Jill, a wonderful teacher and preacher. I quote from this sermon here. He says “There is no way trouble can come your way outside the permissive Will of God, Satan can throw all the forces of Hell at you but God is your strength. God is our refuge always.... Sometimes the trouble comes not with the finality of an earthquake, or the fury of a storm but with the force of a flood.” Stuart Briscoe goes on to say that when the storm, flood and earthquake are coming after you, you know you will be engulfed, so don't try to deal with the power of Satan yourself, admit when you're beaten and head for the City of Refuge.” The terrible persecution of Christians is escalating, we may wonder how they stand strong.

“The first thing that you must realize is that God is continually available. This is an Old Testament passage, but the New Testament amplifies it even further. The Lord Jesus Himself said that we must come unto Him, all of us who are weary, and heavy laden, and He will give us rest. So the simple message as to what to do in times of trouble is this: admit that God is your Refuge, and you can’t cope. Christ is the One who opens His arms to you and says, ‘Come to Me with all your burdens, roll them upon Me, give Me the problem, and I promise to be what you need.’

Secondly, we must realize that God our Refuge is not only continually available, but He is thoroughly adequate for it says in this verse, God is our Refuge, but also our Strength.” God has incredible power, more power than we can imagine, more power than any Marvel comic or movie depicts.

God is in control, continually available, thoroughly adequate and thirdly, readily accessible through Jesus Christ who is alive within us. We have the Good News of the Gospel and what that means in reality, no matter what Satan or the elements bring !

We have our part to play. The persecuted church asks for firstly, our prayers, and secondly our support. Stuart Briscoe goes on to say “We should understand that the Church, which is composed of people born again of the Spirit of God, baptized in the Body of Christ, is the “City of God”, and God is resident in our midst.” Many persecuted Christians recognise that God is very much alive in the fellowship of His people. Part of Open Doors’ mission is that our brothers and sisters know they are not forgotten and they are not alone in this spiritual battle. “In the fellowship of His people there is support; in the fellowship of His people there is concern and compassion; not because they are special people — they’re not, they’re just like everybody else — but God is resident in those people.”

Finally there is a blessing poured out on His people. Isn’t this what we hope for and believe? Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. And John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. And for those on trial or questioned “When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say for the Holy spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.” Luke 12:11,12

And so The River of God is the Spirit of God who will make glad the people of God. This psalm is needed for a time such as this, wherever the body of Christ suffers

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

5 God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.

6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; He lifts His voice, the earth melts.

7. The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
- 8 Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth.
- 9 He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the shields with fire.
- 10 He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."
- 11 The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress

This in part, answers some of our questions about the persecuted church.
Please continue to pray and give thanks, the Lord Almighty **is** with us.
God bless you Barbara Jane (BJ)



How can you partner with the needs of the funds needed to run the church and/or support the new college?

If you feel that you would like to get involved in giving regularly, or once off gift, to either of ministries please contact our treasurer and church

Administrator Isabel Ferreira on +351 965 230 946 or email:

isabel@iecavj.pt We have two separate accounts for these ministries so please designate your gift for either **General Fund** and/or **IECA Bible School**

UK taxpayers wishing to give can donate through the UK charity Jonthree Trust Limited, government adds a further 25% to your donation, and your gift is tax deductible. (For more information, contact Isabel Ferreira

965 230 946/isabel@iecavj.pt

Donations made by Portuguese taxpayers are also tax deductible (contact Isabel Ferreira for details)

Donations by bank transfer: Bank: Millennium BCP

Branch: Avenida, Loulé Account holder: Igreja Evangélica Internacional do Algarve

IBAN: PT50 0033 0000 0011622084205

(BIC/SWIFT: BCOMPTPL)

ALGARVE BUSINESS NETWORK

JOIN US!

Come and join us for monthly get-togethers, networking, collaborations, encouraged faith related practices, and more. We are open to all who want to grow and share in Business

MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT US



[HTTPS://ALGARVEBUSINESSNETWORK.COM/](https://ALGARVEBUSINESSNETWORK.COM/)



Online Church experience

We are very grateful to all those who have made it possible to continue worshipping together during these challenging times by setting us up with an online presence. Every Sunday morning the International Service goes out live at 10.30am and the Portuguese Service at 5.30pm - Lisbon time. If you want to join these services either live or later on you can view them at <https://kerkdienstgemist.nl/stations/1882-International-Evangelical-Church-of-the-Algarve-IECA/events>.

You can also download the App from Appstore <https://apps.apple.com/nl/app/kerkdienst-gemist/id1041456558?l=en> or for Android from <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.kdgm.kerkdienstgemist>.

**SAVE THE DATE: September 29th probable
date for Church Dinner.**

How to Start a New Life with Jesus Christ

God loves you and eagerly desires to establish a personal, intimate and eternal relationship with you so that you can experience the life that He promised.

1. God loves you and created you to know Him personally and live eternally with Him. Why do most people not know God personally?

2. Our sin separates us from God. That's why we can neither know Him nor experience His love, nor have eternal life.

So is there a solution?

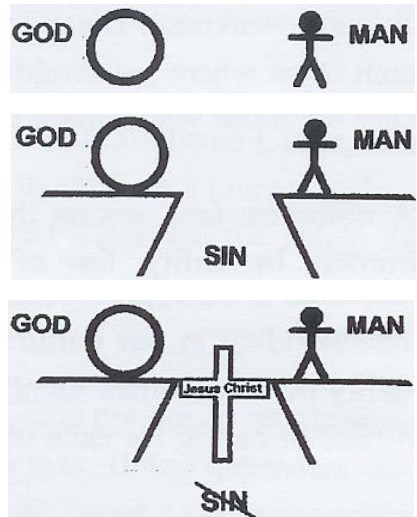
3. Jesus Christ is God's answer to our sin. By dying for us on the cross, Jesus took upon Himself the punishment for our sin. Because of His death we can receive God's forgiveness, experience His love and receive eternal life. It is not enough to just know these facts....

4. With a sincere desire to change, we must ask God for forgiveness and receive Jesus Christ into our lives as our Saviour and Lord. Then we are able to know God, experience His love and have eternal life.

To receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord requires repentance. That means that you want to turn away from the selfish and sinful life you have lived thus far. Ask God to forgive your sins. Thank him for Jesus, who took the punishment for all your sins. Ask Him to make your life totally clean and new. Ask Jesus to come into your life through His Spirit and start a personal, intimate and eternal relationship with you. Would you like to receive Jesus into your life? The following prayer is an example of how you can do that now:

Lord Jesus, I acknowledge that I have been going my own way, instead of Your way. Please forgive me. Thank you for dying on the cross to take away my sin. Come into my life and make me the person You want me to be. From now on, I want to live for You and follow and obey You. Amen."

For more information or help, phone Pastor Mark on: 289 328 635.



BOOTES & ROUTES Walking In the Beautiful Algarve

Between September and May our walk coordinator, Jan Bradford, organises and often leads walks herself that explore the beautiful region of the Algarve. These walks are held once a month and are announced during Sunday morning worship service. Jan also has information on the venue, approximate walk time and degree of difficulty. There are walks in the countryside, hikes on top of coastal cliffs and on the beach - something for everyone's taste and ability.

If you would like to lead a walk, please contact: Jan Bradford on
918 700 524.



GREETING CARDS

To support our Missionary Jill Kinsey in Lesotho,

and her orphans, artists from our congregation are offering copies of their original paintings as greeting cards for a donation of €1 each!

All moneys go towards Thuso Education Fund. As you bless these children you are becoming an integral part of their future. Thank you for your generosity and support.

See **Hanna** after the service outside the main church building

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Due to the transient nature of our congregation, we fear that sometimes the needs and problems people face may go unnoticed. A person's absence may be interpreted as one being out of the country, while in reality, the person may be ill and confined to home, needing some help or even a phone call just to let them know that their church family is thinking of them and praying for them. For this reasons we have initiated the **Vale Judeu Pastoral Care Team**, which will operate in conjunction with our pastor.

Each member of the Team has expressed their willingness to have their phone number made available in the case that anyone is in need of someone to talk to, or simply just communicate that their absence is due to illness or some other reason. The variety of people on the pastoral care team means that there are options with regards to the person someone can call. We also realise that not everyone will be comfortable speaking to the same person or perhaps one of the Team members lives closer than the others. If anyone feels that they need a visit or a call from the pastor, this can also be requested through the dedicated Pastoral Care Team - - number below. We want to ensure that everyone feels included in our fellowship and no one's needs are overlooked. If you know anyone unable to attend church due to ill health please let the Pastoral Care Team know.

Dedicated Pastoral Care Team number:

926 489 627

We have team members throughout our church family area who are willing to help.

If you have a **prayer request** that you want the prayer team to pray for please also ring this number. 926 489 627

Website IECA

If you have any suggestions for content, or any photos that we could use, please contact me on

Clive Bydawell
clive@knowledgesmith.co.uk

Sue Knickle
jduck51@gmail.com

Mario
mario_p8@hotmail.com

How to Receive this Newsletter by E-mail

Request that your name be added to our mailing list by contacting Malcolm & Leonie Jarrett at

leonielaj@gmail.com

ART LESSONS

Monday 10am - Noon Acrylics
Monday 3pm - 5pm general painting
Wednesday 3pm - 5pm
General painting

Restarts on 2nd October 2023

Details: BJ Banks **916103050**

Youth Group



Friday at 8pm - 10.30 Restarts on 1st October
For 12 - 18 year olds
“Revive”

For more details contact:



Youth Coordinator Glenn Bowden:

966 964 073

email: bowden_glenn@hotmail.com

Language Classes

Contact Bela for classes:

Learn Portuguese

Learn English

932 749 295

ATTENTION: The parking area at the north entrance to the chapel is sign posted for the use of the **disabled and those with difficulty walking - ONLY.**



All other visitors may park either at the lower car park (off the main road), the lower north car park (at the side entrance to the church grounds). ALSO in front of the greenhouses opposite the side entrance to the church - the gates will be open. Please note: Thank you for your cooperation and **WELCOME** to our Church. God bless!

Our Sunday Worship Services

Sunday mornings at 10:30am, in the Vale Judeu Chapel.
Simultaneous translation into Portuguese (German upon request)
Prayer Meeting for the worship service is at 10am in the Prayer Room



Crèche.....



Sunday School (to be
announced during the service)



Coffee and tea in the
Almond Tree Cafe



Information about our
Missions



Bookstore: temporarily in
the Church - at rear wall



Sales of cakes, produce
for our Mission Fund



Additional parking at the lower
car park, north entrance to the
church grounds.



Please leave the parking area
at the north entrance to the
chapel free for those who
have difficulty walking



Sunday Prayer Ministry Team: After the worship service, at the back of the chapel, members of our Sunday Prayer Ministry Team are available to pray with you for any matter

PORTUGUESE WORSHIP SERVICE Weekly 5:30 pm

Sunday afternoon worship
services in Portuguese.
Although the service is in
Portuguese, you don't have to be
Portuguese to attend!
Simultaneous translation into
English or notes are available!

YOUR PRAYER CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We invite you to join us in
praying for our Church, our
Community and Portugal. at
Bible Study and at 10am before
the Sunday Worship Service.

Prayers for the Persecuted
Church on alternate Wednesdays
from 1-2pm. Contact BJ Banks
289 992 857 or 916 103 050.

We are delighted to welcome all who come to visit us from many nations. We want you to feel that you are part of our family, and it is our prayer that you will be blessed by this fellowship and this place that God has provided for us to worship.

CONTACTS

Elders:

Barry Henry 969 015 091
 Malcolm Jarrett 926 489 627
 John Wykes 928 127 742
 Malcolm Gordon 912 853 573

Council Members:

Pastor Mark Loney 289 328 635 / 910 541 960
 Secretary: Hanna Singh 289 416 078 / 927 510 499
 Treasurer: Isabel Ferreira 965 230 946/isabel@ieca.vj.pt
 Malcolm Jarrett: 926 489 627
 malcolm_jarrett@yahoo.com
 Barry Henry 969 015 091 / barry@ieca.vj.pt
 Barbara Jane Banks 916 103 050
 Glenn Bowden 966 964 073 / glenn@ieca.vj.pt

Prayer Ministry Team:

Judith Loney 289 328 635 / 910 913 087

Pastoral Care Team:

Malcolm & Leonie Jarrett 926 489 627

Persecuted Church Ministry:

BJ Banks 289 992 857 / 916 103 050

IECA Building Projects:

Pastor Mark Loney 289 328 635 / 910 541 960
 iecavj@sapo.pt

Music:

Coordination: Pastor Mark & Judith Loney
 Music Coordinator: Judith Loney 289 328 635/910 913 087
 judiloney@icloud.com

Website Coordinator:

Sue Knickle 289 103 873/932 099 588.

Newsletter & Monthly Internet updates:

Leonie Jarrett 926 489 627 - leonielaj@gmail.com

Youth Group Coordinators:

Barry Henry 969 015 091

Glenn Bowden 966 964

073

Crèche & Sunday School

Coordinator: Judith Loney 289 328 635 / 910 913 087
 Teacher: Bernice Gray 289 501 507 / 914 962 612
 Teacher: Joy Hardwick 915 665 905
 Teacher: Bev Wilkes: 920 552 971



This newsletter is a publication of the International Evangelical Church of the Algarve (IECA). All material is reviewed and approved by Pastor Mark Loney prior to publication.

Deadlines:

If you would like to place an advert about an upcoming church related event, please reserve your ad space by emailing Leonie at:

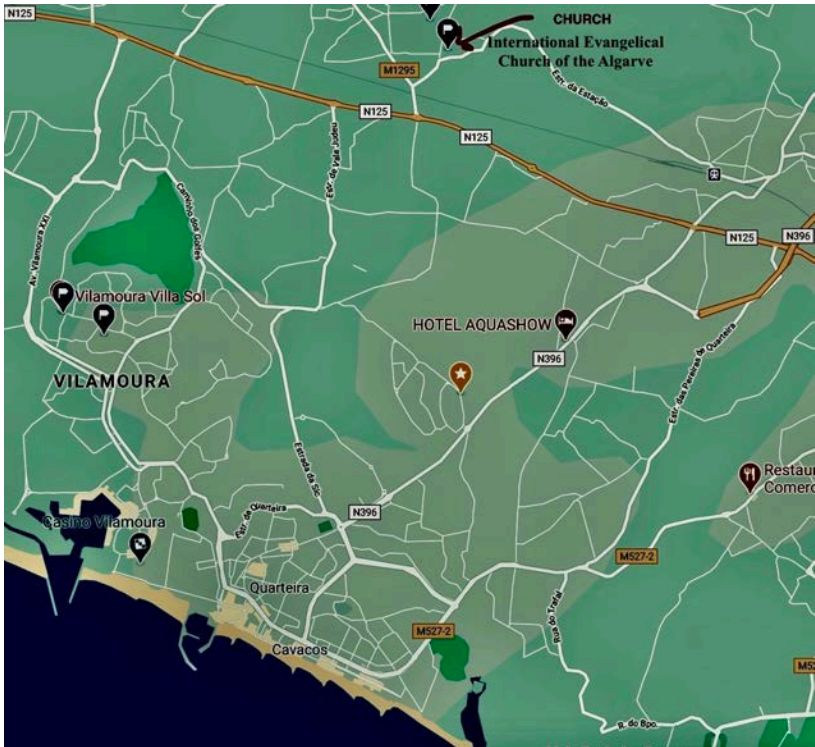
leonielaj@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE

**Mondays are Pastor's Day
 off. Please contact 289 328
 635 (Office/Admin)
 9am-5pm)**

Thank you for taking the time to read our News Letter

**Please pray for the work here and for all involved,
that the Lord's name will be lifted high**



Admin/office. 289 328 635

(Office Hours 9am-5pm)

**International Evangelical Church
of the Algarve**

**P.O. Box 109 • 8100-910 Loulé
Algarve, Portugal**

isabel@iecavj.pt www.iec-algarve.com

37°651.56N, -8°085'7.86W

N 37°-6'-49" W 8°-5'-7"

Where "SON Worshippers" takes on a new meaning!