

# WEEKLY NEWS

## Newbury Baptist Church

Wednesday 10th July 2024

## MAHON FAMILY UPDATE

*We support a missionary family in Peru, through our partnership with BMS World Mission.*

*Dave and Michele are Baptist ministers, who left London for Peru in 2017. They have three children: Jonathan, Ruth and Phoebe, and are currently living in the coastal city of Trujillo, where they are involved in preparing Peruvians for mission at a Baptist Seminary.*

*They are due on Home Assignment in December-January. We have requested a visit to NBC.*

*Below is their latest update to their supporters.*

### **My trip to Cajamarca – pronounced 'ca-ha-marca' (roll the r!)**

Hello everyone! We hope the weather is warming up nicely for you! This prayer letter focuses on a regional teaching conference Michele participated in. We continue to cherish your faithful prayers for the work here in Peru and this account gives more details on what some of our service here is like:

When I received the invitation to be part of a team of expositors for a conference on Mission by the Evangelism and Missions Group of the Central Baptist Convention, I was excited about the opportunity to

share and encourage the churches in the northern Andes region of Peru. I was part of this conference two years ago, when we jointly delivered on the same theme in Trujillo. Some churches in Lima had also planned a similar event but sadly that was cancelled, because it clashed with some other joint church events; so I was pleased that this one in Cajamarca actually took place.



On my flight to Cajamarca via Lima, the landing was delayed due to strong winds over the mountains of the regions. It is such a beautiful city with lovely mountains and an abundance of sheep and cows. Dairy and farm produce is so fresh and rich and they have some amazing hot springs in this region of Peru. I arrived two days before the conference to give myself enough time to

weekly news

1

adjust to the altitude – Cajamarca is almost 9,000 feet above sea level and when Dave visited the same city for the January 2020 Peruvian Baptist Convention, he suffered with altitude sickness for the first couple of days. Hence, I left armed with the recommended remedies, only to find out when I arrived that all this was not necessary. I suffered no altitude sickness to my delight! Thank you Jesus.



I decided to use the day before the conference to visit Los Banos del Incas – the baths of the Incas. It's a beautiful tourist attraction with well-tended gardens, open air hot spring pools and several private baths one can hire for 30-minute soaks. Anything more than that time is said to do physical damage.

I also visited the Plaza de Armas, the main square of the town with its ornate cathedral filled with impressive icons and faithful Catholic congregants. The young people of the city seem to flock to the plaza for their open-air dance rehearsals to both modern and traditional songs. It was wonderful to see many indigenous women dressed in their traditional costumes.

The conference was attended by representatives of 10 churches who form the association of Baptist churches in the region, and my part was to teach on the biblical basis for mission from Genesis to Revelation, as we see throughout the bible God's loving master plan to draw all creation into a divine relationship with the Trinity, ourselves, and others. This is illustrated from the creation story to the call of Abraham and Israel who are

a sign of God's salvation call to every nation. The ministry of Jesus was handed over to The Twelve and now the church, as we look forward to the events detailed in the sights and sounds of Revelation, always calling on others to join the family of the King of kings and Creator of the universe.

Others in the team explained the history and aims of the Missions Board, ways to develop your personal call to missions and a plan of action to plant churches. The response was very encouraging. Several churches accepted the challenge to jointly plant a church, after a time of united prayer and fasting, to begin soon.

We would love your prayers for this endeavour!

Another item of prayer would be some days of teaching that Dave will be involved in from



July 10-20. Michele accompanied this team last year as I joined the group of teachers and students from the Mission's Department of the Trujillo seminary who taught the Awahun community. We will also be visiting Iquitos as a family at the end of July to encourage our partners there, and we would ask for your prayers for that trip too.

Thank you all so much for your support and constant care for us!

# CHURCH NEWS

## LADIES BREAKFAST: 13TH JULY, 8:30AM

The booking system is now live for our next Ladies Breakfast. You can sign up [here](#).

All women are welcome - please do invite a friend if they've never been.

## CHURCH SUMMER SOCIAL: 14TH JULY, 2:30-4PM

You are invited for tea and cake THIS SUNDAY 14th July, 2.30-4pm, hosted by the Nash Small Group.

It will be held in Tim and Jennifer's garden (for the address please contact the Church Office), so please bring a picnic chair/rug if you have one. Contributions of cake will also be gratefully received!

We hope you will be able to join us for a relaxed time of fellowship together.

## FAMILY SUMMER HOLIDAY SOCIALS

We know the summer holidays can be tough for parents. We are planning a couple of fun afternoons to 'lighten the load' and encourage our children to play together and burn off some energy!

You are very welcome to join us at either/both of the following:

**Friday 9th August:** Anytime from 12:00 near the splash pad in Victoria Park.

Bring a picnic and some swimming things if your kids plan to get wet!

**Tuesday 27th August:** Anytime from 1:30 by the picnic area at Snelsmore Common.

Bring any ball games or suitable outdoor games and the kids can play and build some dens!

Please speak to Sarah for any further information: [sarahm@newburybaptistchurch.org](mailto:sarahm@newburybaptistchurch.org)

## SUMMER HOLIDAY SUNDAY SERVICES

In order to give our brilliant youth and children's leaders a well-deserved break, we will be having all-age services throughout the school holidays.


These will be around 45 minutes long and run on Sundays from 28th July - 1st September.

The theme this year is 'Bible-lympics', where we will be looking at six key people/groups from the Bible and exploring their connection to an Olympic sport using craft, games and activities. We will of course also spend plenty of time in sung worship, reading the Bible and praying together.

Please note there will be no Communion shared in August.

Following the final service on 1st September, we will have our very own 'Closing Ceremony', finishing with a Church Picnic and games in Victoria Park. We hope you will be able to join us for a time of fun and fellowship together.





# PRAYER FOCUS

## POWER & DEMOCRACY; PRAYER & THEOCRACY

Unless you've been living under a rock since Friday, you will have noticed that we have a new government and a new Prime Minister, who commands a huge majority in the House of Commons. We have seen the power of democracy in action, and the people of the UK have voted for a change.

Baptist churches are often praised for their 'democratic' system of governance, which revolves around the Church Meeting and an understanding of the Priesthood of all Believers. But this isn't strictly accurate. What we actually practice is a system of *theocracy*, where Jesus is the permanent Head of the Church, and the one who leads us and directs us. The primary purpose of our Deacons & Church Meetings is not to put forward our own opinions and ideas, but to prayerfully seek the mind of Christ, and obediently follow him.

The place of prayer is utterly central to this process. When we pray we are reminded that the changes we seek in our lives, our church, our community and our world is not man-made. It is the power of Almighty God, who raised Jesus from the dead. There is nothing else like it! So pray, and may Jesus lead us, his Church!

- Pray for our new Prime Minister, Keir Starmer. That he might be anointed with a Godly wisdom which supersedes all human wisdom, and looks beyond Party power plays, and towards service in the national interest.
- Pray for the new Cabinet, as they meet and get to know their departments. May they form strong, effective working relationships with their teams and with the civil service. May they be humble enough to listen and bold enough to act.

## CHURCH FAMILY PRAYERS

- Pray for Ben C, who is preparing to go on a short term mission to Serbia with UCCF (Universities & Colleges Christian Fellowship). Ben writes: I'm going to be part of a UCCF mission trip to Serbia at the end of July with EUS (the Serbian counterpart to UCCF). We are going to help them run an English-speaking Bible camp for Serbian University students. While on this camp, we are helping out with running small Bible discussion groups, as well as running classes on English culture and its quirks. We'll also be helping out in other parts of the camp with games and other activities. We are going so that the students would improve their English as it's so helpful for them in their future careers, as well as to share the Great News of Jesus and what that means for them and their lives.
- I'm not the best with new foods, so please pray that I'd get along with the food; that I'll quickly adjust to the different culture, and that it would be a really fruitful trip. Thank you!