

friendsnewsletter

Derby South
Spring 2020



GideonsUK

Philippians 4:6-7

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Dear Friends,

What a difficult time we are facing, even for us that love God and know he is in control; it can be hard not to worry. As Bible believing Christians, let us try and encourage ourselves and the non-believers we are in contact with, using words of scripture. There is so much talk about the horribleness of the situation, let our words give a different focus – that of the God who loves us so much he sent his son to die for us (and with Easter being just around the corner!) Not only that, but God always has a plan, so that Jesus went through that horrible death but he rose again – beating death - so that others can trust in him and have eternal life in heaven with God.

These are such unprecedented times, that even those who usually aren't interested in God may realise we need help from above! The 'helps' in the front of the Gideon Bibles can direct you to appropriate verses.

We were hoping to write to you inviting you to a friends event in June. Unfortunately we feel it is best to cancel and we hope (God willing) to do an event next June 2021. In the mean time we have written to you with some of the exciting answers to prayer we have seen before Corona-virus slowed down our work. The Gideon Magazine will be out later than usual (In the summer sometime) but will have exciting news of changes in our ministry in the UK...

We are praying for you and the churches you represent. We pray that you stay healthy and safe in your body and your mind. Remember although we are isolated and socially distant – God is always with us, he always hears our prayers. May you really feel God's blessing at this difficult time.

With Love from Ben, Lizzi and the other branch members.

Members of our branch have really been praying about the particular schools that we were having trouble getting in to – and praise God for his faithfulness– in the space of a few weeks we suddenly received invites in to a few of these schools!

As Joel says in 1:2 "Has anything like this happened in your days?". Let us pray for our country and world as it comes to terms with the plague that has been inflicted on us, that there will be repentance as commanded in 2:12-13 and call on God "And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved" (2:32).

One Amber Valley school that had been closed, allowed us to take a yr 8 Assembly (169 testaments taken) and afterwards promised us a date for Yr 7.

We have been offered dates for two other Burton schools that we had been unable to access (although unfortunately the current school closures have prevented us from getting there yet) and a third school, that had not been responding to us, phoned National Office requesting Bibles for all the years that didn't have them. 614 Youth Testaments were delivered there before the school closed. Pray that the students will use their extra time to read them.

We visited an Allestree School in January and were warmly received and able to give out 210 YTs: there are 240 pupils in Year 7.

We have also had contact with Foston Prison (the new chaplain contacted National Office asking for 100 Testaments) and the chaplain at Sudbury is also asking for Bibles.

The Lord has been good!

The GideonsUK website is still up and running with members of National Office working from home able to respond to emails should you need to get in touch. Printing and posting this to all friends this time has proved tricky, feel free to forward this newsletter if you know someone who usually receives it by post.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105

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