

Dear Home Group Leaders

It was so good to hear from Corey Chung on Sunday as she shared about her recent trip to a Muslim-majority country and her heart for longer term mission service. Following on from this, in mid June, we have have an **Open Topic HG study** which allows opportunity for a focus on **International Mission**.

Belmont supports several overseas mission partners whom we hear about every now and then, but each group will probably have links to other overseas mission work which members of your HGs may support. These could be due to personal friendships, previous mission visits or peoples or places which God has placed on your hearts. It is not often that we put aside a HG evening for prayer and conversation for this, but it is an important area of our church life.

In order to prepare for the evening, please ask your group members ahead of time to bring something from any links they may have. It might be worth gauging how many links there are, as this will make a difference as to how you structure your evening. It would be helpful, for example, to ask someone to share a brief outline of their connection to give some context for prayer points.

Prayer could be in small groups, or through one person leading, or whatever you choose! There may be objects or food which could help with our engagement....

There will also be prayer and news updates from the Belmont partners alongside the study notes, which can be used during the evening or taken away for prayer.

If your group is following different material for the term, perhaps you could include something of this one evening, or over a few sessions alongside your usual evening study.

Yours

Ali Judd

Belmont Mission Partners are people and agencies working overseas and in the UK who we support in prayer and with finance. Our overseas connections are

**Steve and Lydia Cockram** who work in Portugal. They serve a local church particularly in the area of youth work and young adults.

**Paul and Eunice Kingori** are in Kenya. They run a children's home supporting orphans and disadvantaged children. They enable participation in education. Paul is a pastor of local fellowship and also an entrepreneur.

**Judith and Eglon Harris** have been based in Mexico since they got married at Belmont in the 1950s! Eglon produces teaching resources for use in local churches. He has more recently developed short teaching video series on Youtube.

The vision of **France Mission** is to see increasing numbers of people in France encountering God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – through the work and witness of local evangelical churches. As a support organisation, France Mission provides targeted, strategic support to help the French evangelical church move closer to achieving its own goals.

## Steve and Lydia Cockram in Portugal

It's May already, and it doesn't feel like we're almost ending the academic year!

These past few months have been filled with many challenges and joys, so here are a few of them.

The year started off rather challenging for us as a church, as we went through a period of upheaval in which some families left. It was difficult for us, as young people that we'd invested in for the past 4 years were suddenly no longer with us. We still see some of them at events and this past week one of the girls who Lydia has mentored for the past 3 years publicly thanked us for our commitment to her and the way in which we have walked alongside her as she studied. A positive that has come out of the upheaval is some of the young people who were more on the fringes have become more involved and been able to grow their relationships with others.

In February we were visited by the whole of Lydia's family, it was especially nice to show Porto to our nephews and niece. We also took part in an "acampadentro" (inside camping) at another church. It was great to see our young people get to know other Christians their age, and we hope for similar opportunities in the future.

Earlier this month we headed briefly to the UK for the ECM Britain retreat. It was the first one we've been to since we officially left for Portugal. We found it very encouraging to be with people who understand the challenges and joys of missionary work, in particular we found the honesty in all the sessions helpful and refreshing. One part that we found particularly helpful was in a session about Growing as the Body, in which we were reminded that there are parameters to our calling. We are responsible for the depth of our ministry, and that we are to be grounded in Christ and go deeper with him. But the breath and influence of our ministry is God's responsibility.

These past few months have had many ups and downs. At the start of May one of our teenagers, Davi (dah-VEE), was diagnosed with lymphoma. As I'm sure you can imagine, this has been especially difficult for Davi and his family (Sandro, Luciana, his 2 brothers Pedro and Lucas), but also for the wider church. He has started his treatment, and the family is happy to know that you are praying for them as well. God works in and through all situations, and we have seen this past month how Davi's diagnosis has led the church to pray and seek God in a new and deeper way. We've also seen how the church members

have responded practically in their support for the family in various ways. Finally, about 2 years ago a member of our small group asked us to pray for a boy called Martin, who was 4 and had just been diagnosed with cancer. He was a family member of a colleague of hers. As a church and small group, we have been consistently praying for this boy and his family these past few years. When Davi was first diagnosed and in the hospital, he was put in a room with a 6 year old, who happened to be the same Martin that we had been praying for. Because of this, Martin's mum and Luciana have become close, and just before Martin moved room, the mum asked for Luciana and another lady from church to pray for them.

Last Sunday we organised a lunch with our young adults to raise support for our mission trip to Athens in July. It was a success, and it was good to see them working together.



Advanced dates for your diaries: we will be heading back for home assignment from the 25th of July to the 13th of August.

Please pray for:

- Our church as we continue to reflect on and work through the changes and departures of the last few months.
- For Davi and his family as he undergoes treatment for Lymphoma, and that as a church we would continue to be family to them and uphold them in prayer, emotionally and practically.
- A good time away now (23rd-30th May) with Lydia's family.

- Continual preparations for the mission trip to Athens, and that God would prepare Lucas, Pedro, David and Maria and us to serve him and learn from the missionaries and church there.
- For us to continually grow deeper with God.
- Praise God for how our teens and young adults groups are growing closer together.

With love, Steve & Lydia

**Judith and Eglon Harris,**

Dear Belmont,

it is good to be assured that the Lord's work in México is being remembered in prayer. There are many clouds of uncertainty on our horizon as we have general elections on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June; health, education and safety, are presenting serious problems and there is scarcity of water and all the reserves are below their lowest ever and the villages that live from agriculture are in severe financial problems. We are also very grateful for the kind gift of £3,000.00 from Belmont, which has now been credited to our account.

News of "El Sembrador"

We are still recording You Tube weekly messages and now have started one on The Seven Last Words of Christ on the cross, so that the message of Calvary will not be forgotten. An average of 100 viewers are reported every Wednesday. On October 29th, last year, another worker of "El Sembrador" began a series of short weekly messages for a more general public and is reaching around 300 viewers every Monday. We have seen the need to expand our work in this way as the demand for our literature is slightly dropping. Please pray for these new ways used to spread the message of God's Word. The photo is of Eglon checking the You Tube messages.

May the Lord bless you and encourage you in all the work you do for Him.

Greetings,

Judith and Eglon

(If you're a Spanish speaker, you can see the Youtube channel  
<https://www.youtube.com/@sereismiespecialtesoroeb1207> )

## Paul and Eunice Kingori

Dear All,

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus.

First of all I thank the Lord for keeping you all and me well as we began the new year to this point.

Second, I am very grateful to you for the role you played in helping to raise the money to ensure the successful funding of the water project.

As I write this email the community is now enjoying more water than before as the pressure has increased with the additional of the two tanks(10,000 litres each).

I've attached the pictures although the water tower looks like it is not completely built. As I explained before, the tower foundation was made to accommodate four-ten thousand water tanks. But our money was able to finish the tower to accommodate two towers first. That's why the building looks like it is unfinished. In future we will construct a second floor with a roof on the tower.

We also did away with the old PVC broken pipes and replaced them with new PPR pipes. We were able to install 3600 metres of PPR pipes. There are more old PVC pipes that need to be replaced in future. However, that will require more money. For now we can work with what we already have as we thank God for having provided in a great way!

The most costly part of the job was the buying of the pipes and the digging of trenches. Many young and unemployed men were happy to earn some money throughout the process of the project.

Once more I take this time to thank you all for your contribution in reaching out to the people who generously gave, the church, Wilmslow Wells and all other parties who were directly or indirectly involved in the fundraising process. May our Mighty God bless them all abundantly.

Love to the Belmont Chapel leadership and all the community.

Sorry, I am unable to attach the pics. I will send them after I'm through with this email.

Paul



*France Mission works to plant and support local churches across France. The UK Director is Paul Cooke. We are particularly connected with the church in Rennes.*

Belmont's partner church in southern Rennes (where Stéphanie Revault is the pastoral assistant) is entering the final stages of appointing a new pastor. They will have a church meeting on 23rd June to vote in relation to the proposed candidate. Please pray that there will be unity around this important decision. The following Sunday (30th June), there will be a leaving service for the current pastor (Vincent) before he and his wife leave for a new pastorate in Nancy, a 7-hour drive east of Rennes. Give thanks for the growth that the church has seen under Vincent's leadership. The proposed new pastor won't be able to start until summer 2025, so there will be an interregnum of at least a year. Please pray for those who will have to carry extra load during this period.

Belmont's other link with Rennes is via David & Carolyn Violleau who worship at a church-plant in northern Rennes. They have some exciting news for us:

"Since our first public service in February 2018 we've seen God blessing our community. We've grown in number and God led people to trust Him and get baptized in our church (6 baptisms in May).

As our first attempt to buy a building 6 years ago fell through, God has been faithful with the place we've been able to rent every Sunday morning since then. But as we are growing (around 120 people on Sunday mornings), it has become too small to be able to welcome more worshippers. We've been praying for a couple of years now for another place to rent or buy but we've had very few opportunities until recently. But earlier in 2024 we found out about a piece of land with apparently no interested buyer for quite a long time. It would be very well located for our church. The church made an offer to buy the piece of land and this was accepted. The church leaders have signed a preliminary sale agreement (with some cancellation clauses, because of an uncertainty over rights of way that needs to be resolved). So here are now some prayer points:

- Thank God for His spiritual work among us.
- Thank God for the encouragement of seeing a potential good option for a new building.
- For the money we'll need to raise if the project moves on (roughly 900 000 €).
- For wisdom, faith and energy for our leaders working on the project.
- For a strong rallying of our church community in prayer and in finances.
- That we would remain focused on our mission to make disciples and that the building project wouldn't take up too much space in church life.

The generous support of Belmont in 2018 for our previous building project was a big encouragement to us and that money will be useful for our new project now."