

Merry Christmas

The VandenHurks

Missionaries to The United Kingdom



Jonathan, Natalie, and Laura

Dear Pastors and Praying Friends,

December 2020

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SENDING CHURCH:

Turner Street Baptist Church
Maryville, Tennessee
(865) 208-8656

BIRTHDAYS:

Jonathan, 3rd December
Natalie, 2nd June
Laura, 11th March
Anniversary, 27th July

GOALS:

- To glorify God in all we do.
- To follow Christ in evangelism and discipleship.
- To plant / replant New Testament Churches



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Natalie, Laura, and I have been overwhelmed by the love and encouragement received on our current trip in the USA. We had no idea what to expect coming on furlough during these the often frustrating days of 2020. What we have seen are amazing examples of faith as churches continue not only supporting us faithfully, but emphasizing missions more urgently and many having us in to hear an update on the work and rededicate their commitment to it! The day after our last letter I was thankful to lead Zay to the Lord in Knoxville while out with the church on visitation. Please pray for our last several weeks of meetings before flying back to England on January 3, God willing, after a very special Christmas for us with family this year. Our flights have been cancelled, but we hope to rebook and get back for an exciting new year of ministry in these perilous times.

The church in Peterborough were very excited to meet once again on Sunday in-person after the second lockdown was lifted after only five weeks this time. There are still many restrictions, but churches are at least allowed to meet. I woke up and preached at 5:30 am from our current warm location in South Florida, where it was just warm enough to preach outside by a palm tree. We still have to alternate those who come each week for social distancing. But next Sunday they plan to have a special carol service in another building so that everyone can finally see each other again. They also have a joint candlelight service coming up with that other like-minded congregation.

In our last letter I spoke of the men filling in for most of the teaching and preaching while we are away. But there are also some wonderful women faithfully maintaining (through mostly digital means) the children, teen, and ladies ministries this year who deserve our thanks. Some sweet ladies also prepared sweet gift bags for all the young people, which included a portion of God's Word and a Christmas Gospel message. This year has been a difficult one in many ways, but we wanted to remind them of the sweet news of the Gospel! We look forward to the day we can have our children's ministries in full again sometime soon.

God is still alive and we can still have a joy-filled Christmas if we remember what it is all about. As your family receives Christmas cards this year and displays them in your home, remember that God sent us a special missions message when He sent us Jesus. Every single person gets this special message. It is the message of John 3:16, that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." That Son was born in a miraculous way and lived a perfect life. He died the death that we deserved and defeated death by rising again. Now He is the only one who can offer me and you forgiveness of our sins and eternal life. And the amazing news is that "whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Please know we love each one of you and wish you a very HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Jonathan D. VandenHurk

Jonathan, Natalie, and Laura VandenHurk

