

The Vanden Hurks

Jonathan, Natalie, and Laura

Dear Pastors and Praying Friends,

Monday, April 5, 2021

We arrived back in the UK in January and can already say it's been a great new year!

We praise God that although there was a third UK lockdown, churches were allowed to meet for regular services (any extra youth groups and Bible studies had to meet online only). While many UK churches have done nothing this past year and will have to essentially start again, our congregation already has slightly more attending again than we did before the virus, with 78 on Easter Sunday! The problem is our building is very small and even with splitting everyone into two groups, we desperately need more room. The community centre is still used Sundays as a COVID testing site, and even when we were using it, we were often kicked out for other events. There are buildings for sale in our city, but we have not had enough of a downpayment and have missed out on several. Our people are giving! In fact, I was amazed the congregation gave more in 2020 than the year previous, lockdowns aside. They even voted to take two new missionaries on in Moldova and South Africa, and to increase the support from £30 to £50 a month for them and four others, plus more for Colin & Rosalind Pavitt, sent out of our church to found a work in the Northeast. They have also been giving towards a Building Fund. We have about £29,000 at the moment, but need at least £100,000 to get started. Natalie and I will be giving much of the "love offerings" from our recent furlough towards this project. If you are led to give towards a suitable meeting place, please mark gifts,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Royather, Matalie, 4 Laura V.
Ephriane 3:20-21

"VandenHurk Building" and send to MWBM at the address at the bottom right.

I have been **preaching** on Romans, Leviticus, and a Wednesday series on The Common Cold (spiritual apathy and indifference in the last days). Even after we returned, **Alex** wanted to finish his Philippians study on Wednesday nights. This past week he was excited to announce to the church that he has surrendered to the Lord's **call to preach** the Gospel. Pray for him as he meets with me once a week and makes plans to continue studying God's Word.

Pray for:

- A new building!
- Exciting restart of the **Afternoon Sunday School** April 11, after over a year, and also **in-person** youth groups and Bible studies this week (**no minibus yet** though)
- Restart of the **City Centre Evangelism** April 12, alongside all shops reopening

Praise God for:

- 1 profession of faith on Easter evening
- **2 baptisms**, Elena from Ukraine heard the Gospel online and led her daughter Diana to the Lord; both were baptised together.
- 1 called to preach
- 3 babies born here the past year
- Encouraged a **church plant** in Boston, UK
- Natalie's helpful online Ladies Tea talk
- Great online youth and ladies meetings
- Great Restart Evening School of the Bible
- Laura turned two!
- Moved house to a village nearer the church

Our new field address is:

36 Kingsline Close, Thorney Peterborough, Cambridgeshire PE6 0DR **England, U.K.**



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