

# The VandenHurks

*Jonathan, Natalie, and Laura*

DEAR PASTORS AND PRAYING FRIENDS,

August - November 2023

We arrived back in the UK, thankful and encouraged by a wonderful summer time in the States, and the opportunity to see so many **churches**. Of course, seeing **family** altogether for the first time in nearly nine years was priceless as well. We were grateful to see when we got back to England, there were **more** people attending the church than when we had left! There were **more** children and teens in Sunday School and the Youth Group. There were **more** people helping with evangelism in the City Centre. We praise the Lord for His watch care over the ministry and over each of us as individuals, and for the reminder that it is His church and He is the one building it. **The Caudills** were a blessing in every way, ministering here for six weeks. The deacons and members of the church who kept each of the ministries going with **faithfulness, joy and unity** is also a refreshment and encouragement.

In October we were honoured to visit stunning Northern Ireland for me to preach their Harvest services and a five day Gospel Mission. Pastor David Moore and Poyntzpass Baptist Church have a remarkable ministry and were such gracious hosts. Then we also had a meaningful and fun Harvest Service & International Dinner back in Peterborough.

The **Youth Group** meetings have doubled from meeting once to twice a month with an average of 22 teens attending. The annual **Holiday Bible Club** is one of the biggest joint efforts of the church, held during the Autumn half term break. This year Natalie wrote the majority of the lessons, with the addition of some very helpful materials donated from **Lighthouse Baptist Church in Yorkshire, New York** (we were there in the summer helping with their VBS). The theme was, **"The God of Everywhere."** We are so thankful for the Newborough Village Hall which we currently rent each Sunday morning for also allowing us to run the Holiday Bible Club. This year we had **56 children and teens** who "dived in"! We had a "whale" of a time learning about Jonah & His God, learning to love your enemies and share the Gospel, fun songs, games, and creative crafts, cool skits, interesting creature features, and yummy food.

One young lady named **Mihaela** who brought her two children each day came back the following Sunday. One of the men spoke with her in Romanians and she **trusted Christ** as her Saviour! She continues to attend. Other praises include a young man named **Jamaal** who **came to faith out of a Muslim background** in the city centre and **two young men** who were recently saved who have begun attending church for the first time and several weeks since. Both gladly received new Bibles. There have also been people asking about baptism and church membership in recent days, for which we praise God!

#### **Personal / Family News:**

- **Laura started Reception** (kindergarten) in our local village school. She loves her uniform and riding on the bike to school most days.
- **Natalie's health** continued tests confirmed early stages of Crohn's disease and inflammation in the small intestine. We pray for full restoration of health.

SINCERELY YOURS IN CHRIST,

*Jonathan, Natalie, + Laura VandenHurk*  
Ephesians 3:20-21



#### 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.

Missionaries to the United Kingdom

"O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years..." Hab 3:2