

S P R I N G 2 0 1 1

CRISTI ALEXANDER

WALES, UNITED KINGDOM

✘ New Role - Church Planting ✘

“The LORD makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand.” Psalm 37:23-24

Soon after arriving in Wales, I learned that the greatest missional need here is building up the Welsh Assemblies of God. The AG in South Wales has declined from over 60 churches to just 30 in the past few years. Because of the decline, I am joining other missionaries in focusing our attention on church planting. Fellow missionaries Bruce and Joy Page arrived not long after me and have come to Wales to reopen and pastor a church the city of

Cwmbran. I am helping them get a youth group going as well as getting the church up and running again after being closed and without a pastor for six months. We are blessed to already have a church building and have started holding services on Sunday mornings. It is our hope that this church will grow in health and numbers and will be the first of a church planting movement in Wales.



Thank You...

I can't say those words enough. It is a joy to serve in Wales and I couldn't do it without your prayers and financial support. Thank you for your investment in Wales!



Bruce & Joy Page, Tim & Marketa Southerland and I at the church in Cwmbran.

Team Wales



Marketa, Joy and I cleaning the church kitchen.

My STL car; Caerphilly Castle; my brother and parents in Caerphilly; my parents and I in Pontypridd.)



Steps of Faith

Pontypridd is a town just 12 miles north of Cardiff. It has a population of 30,000 and not one evangelical church. It is our hope to plant a church there this year. In preparation, I have gone to Ponty (as the locals call it) each week over the past months for prayer walks - I walk through the town center praying over the community and the individuals I pass on the street. During one of these walks, I stumbled across a Christian book shop/coffee shop and met a handful of

believers with a heart to reach their community. This was a precious find as Wales has a small Christian population. I have been warmly welcomed into the community and have made new friends through my prayer walks. God has opened numerous doors of opportunity already I am witnessing first hand a field ripe for harvesting. Please pray that God will continue to open doors in Pontypridd and that it will be a community claimed in Christ's name.

PRAYER REQUESTS

The British AoG is facing a complete restructuring in the UK. Please pray for wisdom in the leadership and a smooth transition.

Growth in the Cwmbran church plant.

Wales missionary families: Tim & Marketa Southerland; Bruce & Joy Page; Bryan & Misty Elliot.

On one of my trips to Pontypridd, I prayed specifically that God would send me an older Welsh friend whom I could love on and learn from. 30 minutes later I sat in the Christian coffee shop and in walked Joy (featured bottom left with her friend Anne). As we started talking, she took a seat across from me and proceeded to tell me of how her grandparents were saved in the 1904 Welsh Revival and how she was born and raised Assemblies of God! By the



end of the conversation we had exchanged information and I'd been invited over for tea. Joy was a direct answer to a prayer I had prayed just a half hour before.

Joy's grandparents founded a pentecostal church in Caerphilly and I had the privilege of attending the church with her (featured on right). She showed me the house she was born in and the community she was raised in. When she was born her mother named her Joy, for "joy comes in the morning". And what a joy she truly is.

People like my new friend Joy represent hope for the nation of Wales. She is part of a generation who has seen the evidence of a



great spiritual revival years ago, and I believe she she will see the rising up of a new Welsh generation passionate for Jesus and a revival to come.

For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

Psalm 30:5