

Update from Pastor George in Uzimatele, near Nairobi, Kenya (May 25th 2020)

Dear Nigel,

I'm happy to hear from you and to know that you have been praying for us. Yes we need God more than before. He is the only hope for those who are trusting in him. Today the whole world is looking upon him. I have been praying for you and the Cambourne church too. I have been thinking about you and Cambourne church and I have been wondering about how the Cambourne church is affected by covid-19. The impact of covid-19 is very big in our country and it has affected our church greatly. The reason is almost all our members do not have access to internet because they can't afford smart phones and even bundles because in Kenya there is no free internet. This means that I can't reach out to our members online even during this period of lockdown, although we are able to reach out to our members through home visits. We walk around in small groups to pray with members and to encourage them.

We are still under lockdown and curfew. Churches are not allowed to meet at the moment and the movements are restricted. The biggest problem of our members is food and paying house rent, especially for my volunteer staff. The small offering that we used to collect during our church services was able to pay stipend to our volunteer staff to pay their house rent, even the church security guard. Almost all our members live hand to mouth, they depend on casual jobs but now the situation can't allow them to work.

Schools are still closed, children at our Education Centre (*primary school in Gituamba slum district*) are staying indoors and they don't have food to sustain them at home.

All our children at the Family Home are with me and my wife, they are all 18 in number. We have spent all the funds we had to buy food, to pay monthly expenses and to support a few families and at the moment we are uncertain about next month and how they are going to survive.

If you find a way to support us or to make a donation to Uzimatele, we will be very grateful. Just let me know so that I can follow up with Dan. (*Dan Chalke, the CEO of the charity "people" through whom we send money to Uzimatele. You can watch George's recent appeal on the "people" charity website at people.org.uk, which also includes a link to Justgiving if you wish to contribute.*)

Our president hinted yesterday that the schools might resume next month but the parents are reluctant because of the safety of the children. I will keep you updated about the situation.

Pass our greetings to your family and our good friends at Cambourne church. We love you all and we pray for you. May the glory of the Lord cover the church like waters cover the sea.

Amen.

Update from Bishop Desire, Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo (May 25th 2020)

Hello brother Nigel. Thank you very much for your email. It is encouraging to hear that you are thinking and praying for us. But also it is likewise that we are praying for you.

In Goma we are in lockdown. They said there is about 400 cases of Covid-19. But life is very hard as no one is working and there is no plan for getting food. But markets and banks are open still and no one is allowed to enter or exit Goma.

For spiritual activity we are using Radio station in reaching out to our flock and also preaching the Gospel to thousands of listeners. Radio had become the only altar to communicate with Christians as well as to sensitise the communities about Covid-19 response

But also when there is some money Claudaline makes masks to give out to people to help in saving life, also with sanitisers and soap when available. But the need is still great.

But despite of all this, we are not losing hope and our faith is high in Jesus Christ. Please do pass my best regards to all our brethren at Cambourne Church. Tell them that we did get the recent money, about \$ 930, sent through Semliki Trust (*nb. this was the gift sent at the end of March*).

With our love to all of you, Desire and Claudaline

Nigel Taylor (on behalf of the Mission & Giving Group) May 2020