

The Heaton Family

JONATHAN, GRACIE, HENRY & ADELAIDE - MINISTERING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

PRAISES

- Ministries starting back in the New Year
- Provision of 3rd Minibus
- New children attending the Sunday school, toddler group and youth rally.
- Visitors attending the services.
- Recent baptism service.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- University Bible Study to grow - more Uni students
- Teens seeking the Lord
- Wisdom in rearing children
- Labourers at the church
- Souls to be saved
- Unity & establishment at Edward Street BC

UPCOMING EVENTS

- National Youth Rally
- Ladies' Tea - March
- Holiday Bible Club - March
- Easter Outreach
- Crown Hall Graduation

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January

The Lord gave us a wonderful start to the year with our Stewardship Banquet. We enjoyed a meal together as a church family, a time of reflecting on God's blessings in 2025 and looking ahead to what the Lord has in store for us this year.

Jude 22 says, *'And of some have compassion, making a difference.'* Each year, we take a theme for our church to guide our study of God's Word and our walk with Him. We are thankful to think back on so many who have made a difference in our lives and desire to see God make a difference through us in the lives of people in Carlisle this year. It has been special to see God already giving opportunities to witness and live out this verse. Many people in the church have also taken up this challenge to pray for specific individuals in their lives.

We have observed that often a new year brings about a freshness in ministries, and many new faces come along. We have seen an increase in children and families attending the toddler group, youth rally, University Bible study and Sunday school. For the last year, we have been in desperate need of a 3rd minibus to bring in children. Not only a bus, but also faithful workers to drive and help on the bus. God has answered this prayer by providing the funds, bus and labourers needed. For the last three weeks, we have run all three buses and have begun on time! We consistently have over 70 children attending and are praying God will show them their need for the Saviour. We are especially praying that God will send along British children, as they have a hardness to spiritual things. The majority of our Sunday school children are African immigrants who have settled in Carlisle in the last three years.

A dear friend of ours, Greg Bamford, helped our church acquire a new open-air preaching board. Mr Greg was a faithful servant of the Lord who would work on the grounds at Crown Hall weekly, many times mowing the grass with Henry on his lap. He was also a fervent preacher.



Provision of 3rd Minibus



Mums & Tots Group



ESBC Sunday School

His favourite pulpit was the city centre, preaching in the open air. Mr Greg finished his earthly race last month and is now with the Lord. We have been challenged by his testimony and have begun preaching weekly in the city centre of Carlisle, in addition to our regular leafleting. God has greatly blessed the outreach. We have enjoyed great Gospel conversations and even had people gather around as we have street preached. We have had people come to the services through the evangelism in the city centre. Please pray for Thomas, whom we met in the open air. The Lord has recently saved him, and he desires to follow the Lord in believer's baptism and grow in his walk. He has begun requesting to join us in the city centre to get on the box himself to share God's Word! Please pray also for Buse, a university student who was met in the city centre and has begun attending services. She is a muslim and seeking.

Jonathan was invited again to preach at a young farmers' Bible study about an hour from Carlisle, in south Cumbria. It is the largest Bible study they've had this year, with about 80 young adults who came along to sing hymns and study God's Word. Please pray for so many of these who regularly attend a church, but do not know the Lord.

We rejoice at another year attending the Winter Retreat. The theme this year was 'What a Friend we have in Jesus' as we looked at Matthew 11.28, 'Come unto Me...and I will give you rest'. God blessed with 250 people attending with incredible times of prayer, hymn-singing and Bible preaching. Many of the pastors, including Jonathan, spent hours after the services speaking with people about their souls. There were several who came to the Lord in salvation, and many surrendered to God's will for their lives.

We have known the Lord's help the last few months and are thankful for your continual love and support. God is at work! May God strengthen you as you continue for Him!

– With love in Christ, Jonathan, Gracie, Henry & Adelaide

Upcoming *Visa Application*

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST

This Summer marks five years since our family moved to the United Kingdom. We praise the Lord for two successful visa applications that have enabled our family to minister here. At the five-year mark in July, we can apply for 'Indefinite Leave to Remain', which allows us permanent standing in the eyes of the government. The visa process itself has nearly doubled in cost since we moved to the UK. Please pray specifically for God's provision of the funds needed to apply. We are seeking to raise \$16,000 to cover the cost of two visa applications for myself and Gracie, and to naturalise the children (receiving British passports) after our visas are approved. We believe this is the cheapest option, as opposed to applying for four visas initially, which doubles the cost of the children's applications.

Welshpool *Revangelise*



After the Winter Retreat, we enjoyed going to Welshpool with a team of other people to evangelise and attend a Gospel meeting.

There were hundreds of Gospel tracts distributed, and we rejoiced to see visitors and unbelievers in the meeting that evening. Please continue to pray for our friends, labouring in Wales, Tristan & Emily White.

Children are an heritage of the LORD



The Lord reminds us daily of the joy it is to have children! They are constantly making us smile, pointing us to our need of the Lord and His wisdom in rearing them and opening doors to witness as we go about our day. Henry is loving his role of 'big brother', and Adelaide is such a content baby with big smiles. We look forward to seeing what the Lord has in store for them!