



MISSION TIMES

GO

First Edition - July 2015

EDITORIAL

John Thornton

Welcome to the 1st edition of Mission Times # Go!

This is a brand new style newsletter. It builds on the Congregation of Yahweh's Missionary Update, which has been in circulation for some time now. So, why the upgrade?

First of all, it is my hope and prayer that Missions (whether in the UK or overseas) finds a place right at the heart of every believer. After all, it was the greatest instruction our Master left to His earthly disciples: "*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...*" (Matthew 28:19 NASB).

I once heard a prominent missionary state that, 'When this commission was given there was never any talk of coming back'.

Of course I know that for many, if not most, the greatest mission calling is right under our noses – our families, neighbours, community. But certainly, some 'special' people are called, in this

dispensation, to travel across the seas and oceans to reach the lost and to serve the Master in an unfamiliar land and culture. What a great privilege!

Over the coming editions this newsletter will endeavour to 'bring to life' the work of ordinary men and women doing extraordinary things in faraway places. Some of these people we may be familiar with and others, not so familiar. In order to highlight some of Yahweh's unsung heroes we will tell their inspirational stories of healings, miracles, struggles, injury and disease.

The newsletter will also tell the amazing stories of the most popular and well known



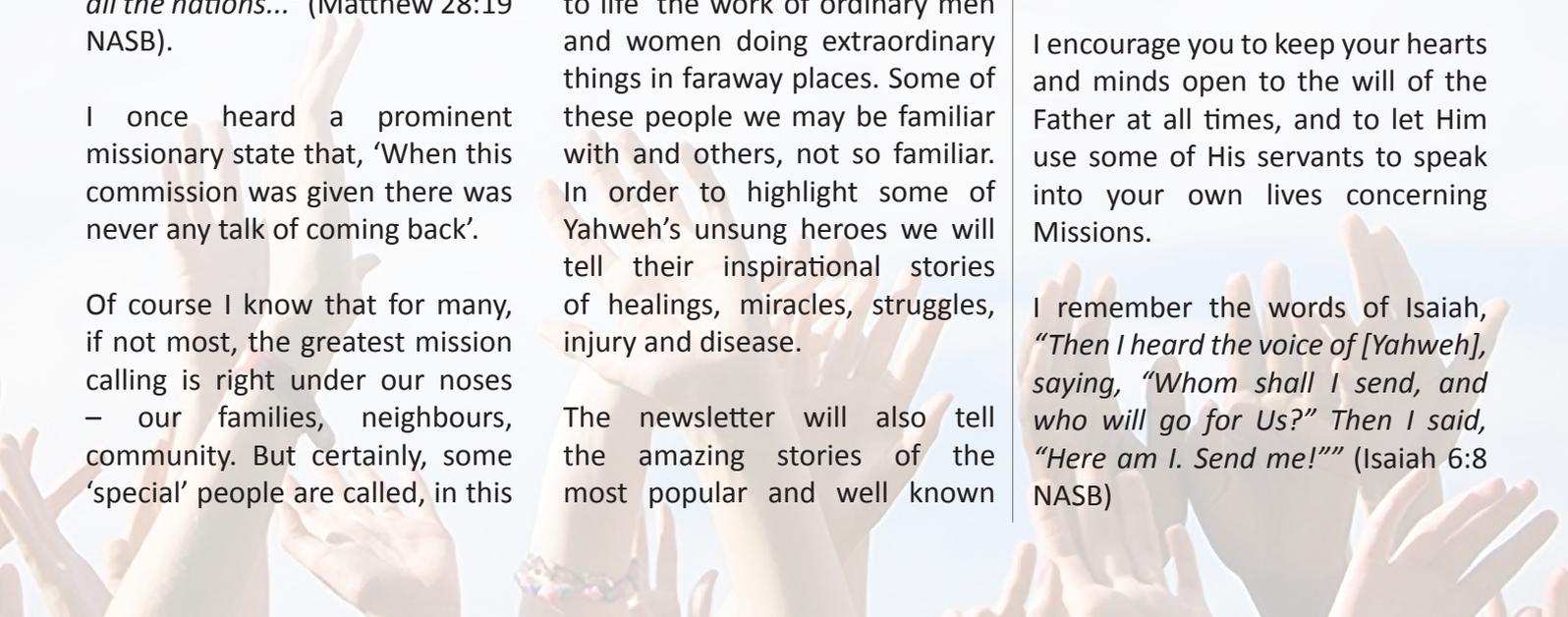
missionaries who have graced our Christian history books for some years now.

This 1st edition focuses primarily on the work that the Congregation has been doing in Kenya, Africa over recent years.

I hope and pray that over the coming months you will be inspired, encouraged, and even challenged to consider whether you yourself have a 'Macedonian calling'.

I encourage you to keep your hearts and minds open to the will of the Father at all times, and to let Him use some of His servants to speak into your own lives concerning Missions.

I remember the words of Isaiah, "*Then I heard the voice of [Yahweh], saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*" (Isaiah 6:8 NASB)



JAMAICA



THE MISSIONARY FUND – THE BEGINNINGS

Valerie Warsop



My father was in the USA visiting our beloved ‘family’ at Salem Acres and expecting to be away for a while. He was also planning a quick trip to Jamaica on behalf of a member of his Nottingham congregation who had begged him to go over to ‘sort out some business’ for her.

Back home in the UK Congregation’s Business Suite I picked up the morning mail with a flicker of surprise; a Jamaican stamp – unusual. The letter was addressed to Dad, but I was dealing with the mail in his absence so I opened it curiously. It was from someone called Ina Barrett, who had ‘happened across’ a copy of Ha’Shem magazine and was interested in knowing more about us. She spoke of their joy in the recently published Holy Name Bible and the





wonder of discovering, from Ha'Shem, people in England using the sacred Name. My heart skipped a beat and a shiver ran down my spine; a group in Jamaica using the sacred Name? The timing was amazing – surely this was Yahweh's doing?

I contacted Dad immediately. "Write to her, tell her I'm coming, give her the dates, say I'll be in touch," he instructed. And he went; and he contacted her; and he met some amazing people; and his heart was stirred and quickened; and he came home with a burden! "They have asked us to help them," he reported simply, "and we must!" So began a blessed and fruitful

association spanning more than four decades; an association of fellowship, love and covenant with an extraordinary people.

A people who, in the beginning, had no places to worship and only a couple of ministers; a people who needed help; a people whose heart beat in time with ours; a people who witnessed to truth and were prepared to give their lives for it; a people we were pledged to help! It was not too long before Yahweh directed us to send a ministerial family to the Island, the first of several. The need to support them and for extra finance to build a meeting room, resulted in the birth of the

'Missionary Fund'.

Jamaica is now a fully established, self-supporting, National Congregation in its own right, but the Missionary Fund goes on, for there is always a work to be done, and we have it on the best authority that 'the harvest truly is great' [Yahshua, Matthew 9:37]. May Yahweh continue to bless all those who loyally support the work which the Missionary Fund achieves, and reward such faithfulness as only He can.



A F R I C A



THE CONGREGATION OF YAHWEH – KENYA

Alcot Walker

For over 30 years the Congregation of Yahweh in the UK has been fostering relations with different groups of people in Kenya. Some knew each other, whilst others were strangers. Some came from the same church group; others came from a variety of denominations scattered across the country. Today, all those people are members of one united congregation and for this we give the Heavenly Father praise and honour.

The Congregation of Yahweh Kenya is a growing and developing family of fellowships which, in many areas, mirrors the Congregation in the UK. The National Overseer, Elijah Ngugi, is an apostle who attained his

BA in theology a few years ago. He loves the things of Yahweh, the Word, and desires to see the members equipped to carry out the work of reaching all of Kenya and other parts of East Africa with the Gospel of the Kingdom. Supported by his wife, Molly Ngugi – who is herself a prophetess – they travel great distances, up and down the country, encouraging the members and helping to equip local leaders to be more effective in their role as shepherds of the flock. These two are passionate about leaders being adequately equipped to minister. They will use whatever they can lay their hands on to help sharpen the skills of leaders and, consequently, add value to the members. This has resulted

in most of the leaders (local and regional) taking up courses in discipleship, leadership and basic theology. Elijah and Molly have visited the UK a number of times to fellowship and meet with the UK leaders. During these visits they have always been a real source of blessing to our network of fellowships.

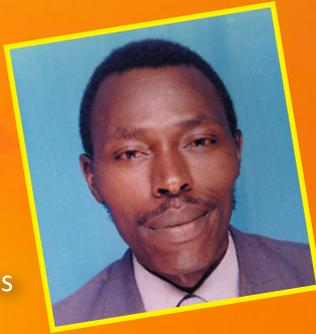
Working with Elijah and Molly on a leadership team are three Regional Overseers who are doing some fantastic work in embedding the Kingdom lifestyle in the lives of the people in their respective region:

Kungu Macharia – Nyandarua Region

This brother lives in a township called Kabati and is one of



the founding members of the Congregation in Kenya. He is a prophet and devoted minister of Yahweh. Kungu visited the UK 15 years ago with his wife Wangari. They were greatly enriched and encouraged through that visit. Kungu oversees four congregations in the region: Kabati, Geta, Kasuku and Naivasha.



the UK Congregation for support and encouragement in order to attain their potential.

Right now the Congregation of Yahweh operates from an office in Nairobi with various ministers volunteering to do secretarial work, bookkeeping, formulating Bible studies, and other functions which all serve to keep the local groups resourced and encouraged. The office is a centre of communication for neighbouring countries and people in Kenya itself who are being led to the 'Hebrew roots' of the faith. In recent times Elijah and team have had the privilege of hosting and ministering to leaders making inquiries about the Congregation from Uganda, Tanzania and different regions within Kenya. We thank Yahweh for the dedication that is being made by local and regional leaders in motivating the people to spread the Gospel of the Kingdom.

Wanjiku Njuguna – Kiambu Region

Wanjiku (commonly called Mama Njane) is a mother, dynamic preacher, and a prophetess who has found her voice and is well respected. She has faithfully and passionately served in the congregation for many years. She oversees three groups in the Kiambu region: Kamuchege, Githunguri and Githiga.



John Siele – Narok Region

This brother is a pastor and has also faithfully served in the congregation for many years. He oversees the biggest region which consists of six congregations: Kichaba, Sogoo, Ilgat, Nkarone, Kaplelach and Timbwalo.



Elijah Ngugi – Nairobi Region

Elijah oversees the two congregations in Nairobi: Nairobi and Dagoretti. Currently he is also acting as overseer for the following congregations: Nakuru, Singorwet in the *Bomet region* and Sindo in the *Homa Bay region* which is about 450 km from Nairobi.



Let's continue to pray for and support these fellow-servants of Yahshua as they continue to labour in the field that the Father has placed them.



These Overseers (working in six regions of Kenya) are responsible for covering and supporting the shepherds and support leaders of the local congregations in their region.

From a relatively small base the heavenly Father has grown this people to eighteen congregations across the country. The potential for growth there is enormous and the groups in Kenya continue to rely on





MALAWI FLOODS

Rachel Gama

You may have heard or read about the extreme weather conditions which affected Malawi and Mozambique in January 2015. Malawi's rainy season is generally December to March, but with Africa suffering significantly worse effects of global warming than other areas of the world things have been less stable in recent years. In 2014 the rains were very late and then something unusual happened in January 2015. In four days over 30cm of rain fell in the Southern Region of Malawi, devastating the area. The president declared a state of disaster. After these four days

there was more rain which was less powerful than the initial rain but still substantial. Then the rain stopped and only appeared in small amounts during February and March. Essentially, Malawi had received four months' worth of rain in a couple of weeks.

Everyone was affected. For the rich it meant power cuts due to damage sustained to the power station. There was no water due to damage sustained to the water board's equipment; dirty water through pipes due to movement of earth; damaged and uncrossable bridges and roads; feet getting very wet when crossing the road; poor visibility when driving; food being damaged due to there being no electricity for fridges and freezers, and leaks in the houses with buckets to catch

the dripping rain from the damaged roofs/ceilings. For the poor, though, it was much worse. It wasn't just a leak in the roof, it was the whole roof blowing away; a whole wall of the house caving in or, worse still, the house collapsing with the occupants being crushed to death. If fortunate enough to still have shelter it meant sleeping with wet blankets. For those who lived near a river the disaster was even more dangerous. The rivers burst their banks. There are crocodiles in some of the rivers, and people were clambering onto any high area - their house if it was still standing or a tree, not only to escape the water but also the crocodiles.

Fortunately, other countries volunteered military helicopters



and many people were saved this way. The majority of Malawians living in poverty in the Southern Region of Malawi suffered as a result of these floods. For most it involved sustaining damage to their house or one wall of their house which meant they had to put a plastic sheet where the wall was and try to find the money and resources to rebuild it. Some, however, completely lost their houses and had no alternative but to seek refuge in a school, public building or camp. This meant that schools had to close for a couple of weeks whilst various NGO's (Charities), large and small, (including Village Foundations) tried to help people and source tents for people to live in. Most of the resources were targeted at the worst hit Lower Shire area where there were floods and many displaced people in camps. Other areas were not under water but houses and crops were damaged or destroyed and people had nowhere to live. Eventually tents were sourced and people began to receive assistance, but even now there are still some people living in camps as they do not have homes to live in.

Village Foundations was able to support a number of families with basic provisions. One particular family, which was taking shelter in the school storehouse, was finally rehoused when Village Foundations built a house for them and provided the essentials to start over again.

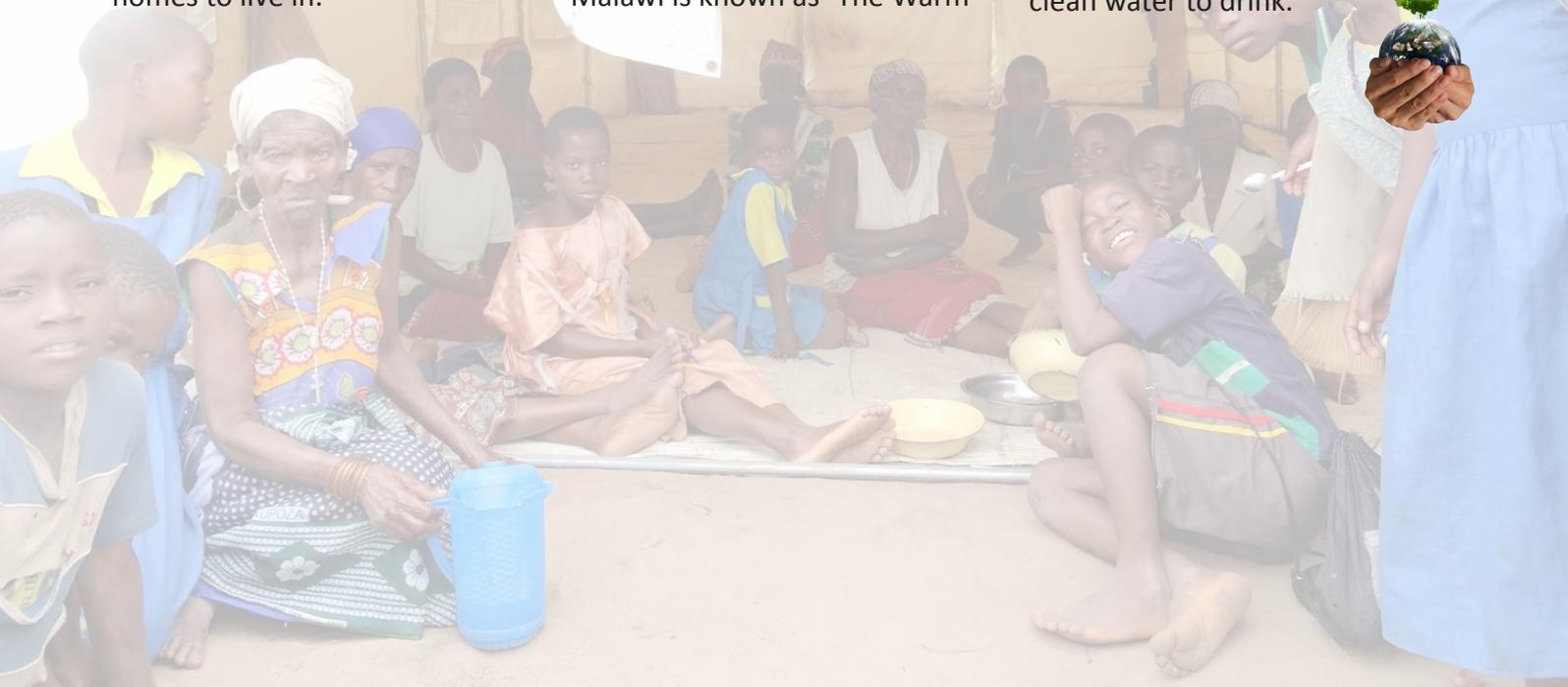
The harvest has been poor this year due to the rains. The Southern Region was devastated and much of the Central Region was affected, too, meaning that Malawi has to rely on the Northern Region, which is the smallest region in the country, for agricultural produce. Another disaster is on the way in terms of a food crisis this year unless the Malawian Government and/or the international community put something in place to help those who are living in poverty.

However, in spite of all this people are not unhappy. Malawians just seem to get on with it and are still able to smile, laugh and enjoy themselves. Malawi is known as 'The Warm



Heart of Africa' and there is a reason for that - they are a peaceful and happy people. A Malawian once said something to me which has stuck with me. He asked for a loan as he had no money and when this was refused he just said, *'It's ok, God will provide'*. In the words of a famous Malawian musician, *'Tough times do not last, but tough people do last.'*

Malawians have peace within themselves, free from the stresses of a developed world life. They have religious freedom and can discuss their beliefs openly without fear of offending anyone. They are God fearing. Their leaders respect Yahweh and prayer is acceptable in schools and workplaces. Their radio stations are full of gospel music. Malawians know and love Yahweh - what they need continually is food to eat and clean water to drink.



THE PURPOSE OF THE MISSIONARY FUND

Give
because
You
Care!



For many years the Missionary Fund has been supporting Churches, missionaries and ministers - firstly in the Caribbean, and in recent years, Africa.

It is our hope that, with your help, this will continue to happen. If we increase our funds we will have the ability to address much wider needs and concerns whilst still holding on to the core values that have underpinned the Missionary Fund over the decades.

The 4 fold purpose of the Missionary Fund is:

1. *To establish and support Missionary Churches, missionaries and projects overseas which are directly connected to The Congregation of Yahweh (UK)*
2. *To support missions projects that have been set up by the Congregation of Yahweh branches overseas*
3. *To support independent mission ventures, missionaries and projects across the world*
4. *To respond to emergency situations in countries prone to environmental disasters and war*



PERSONAL REFLECTIONS & THE WORK OF DEBORAH LINTON

Beverly Nembhard

I was sitting at my desk cogitating on the affairs of the Congregation and the missionary work that was established in Kenya. The Congregation in Chelmsford had adopted a counterpart in Nakuru which is known for its flamingos and was once dubbed, 'the cleanest town in East-Africa'. I was to find out later it has lost a lot of its past glory and had become a busy town with many people hustling and bustling to scratch out a life for their vast families.

For many years COY UK has been in close communication with ministers and individuals in Kenya, fostering meaningful relationships and growing closer in fellowship. Over time the Adoption Scheme



was established. As I thought about the people whom we had been communicating with, there was born in my heart a desire to make a personal visit to Kenya to meet these people we had come to know through various interactive ways. The question then arose in my heart, who could accompany me? Immediately Deborah Linton came to mind so I rang her up and expressed my desire. She told me that Yahweh had already spoken to her about visiting Kenya. As they say, the rest is history – Deborah and I made our preparations and

in 1999 made our first visit to the Congregation of Yahweh in Kenya. We were stepping out in faith to the places of many stories!

Our first impression was how hospitable the people were. We did not focus on City life as we wanted to get an overview of the real life struggles of our brothers and sisters and so, during the six weeks we were there, we travelled to many villages - some places even the natives had never been to. We lived amongst the people, sleeping and eating in their homes. Out of their



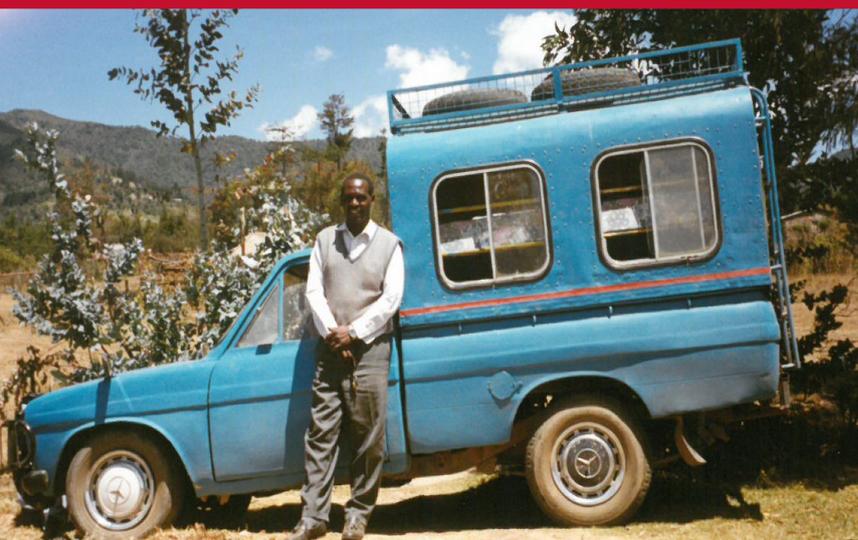
little they gave and gave; more importantly they expressed a deep desire to serve Yahweh, to understand more about Him, and to learn about their brothers and sisters in the UK. It reminded me of the Macedonian brothers and sisters that Paul made reference to: "Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability". (2 Corinthians 8:2-3 NIV). We saw the hunger in the people's hearts to learn about Yahweh; we also saw the poverty as we travelled through the various places, but the people did not complain because they had learned to accept their situation. Life was extremely hard, especially for the women and children. Work was scarce and finances low, but what they lacked they made up with their enthusiasm and love for Yahweh. Both Deborah and I felt that Yahweh was strengthening the link and directing our hearts to spend some quality time helping and working with the ministers and the people.

After returning to the UK we both had a strong desire to return to Kenya for a longer period of time. In 2003, after



much preparation, we embarked on another journey - this time we stayed in Kenya for one year. Deborah, who is a retired midwife, took additional courses in home management and child care; she also completed some IT courses. Having seen the difficulties with managing their homes and children most families in the villages experienced on a daily basis, she felt that Yahweh would like her to concentrate on helping them. During our stay in Kenya fellowship and relationship with ministers and members was cemented. We travelled far and near ministering and working with the resident leaders; sharing together and helping each other to become more established in the faith.

We saw miracles on many levels. Travelling on very rough roads was tiresome. Sleeping in unfamiliar places and beds was daunting at times, but the love of Yahweh enabled us to become familiar with things outside our comfort zone. Yahweh provided a home for us and the furniture that we needed; finances for our stay, and friends who supported and prayed for us. Kenya became our second home. Amidst the difficulties He kept us. I guess it was during those times that it was cemented in Deborah's heart that she would like to become more closely connected with the women and children. She would give her time to encourage, support and help them to sustain a more comfortable family life.





Since Deborah's first visit in 1999 she has made three independent visits to Kenya. She has supported many families from her wealth of life experience and also financially. She has encouraged them to invest in their home life, and especially in their children. She has ministered to men, women and

children. With each visit her love for the people and country has grown. It is important to note that at the age of 75 Deborah is still enthusiastic about serving Yahweh on the mission field. She is not deterred by danger or by unusual situations. Her confidence is in the amazing grace of Yahweh; His ability to sustain, provide and empower her. Serving Yahweh is a way of life for her and I am sure she would join with the hymn writer who penned:-

*It may not be on the mountain's height,
Or over the stormy sea:
It may not be on the battle's front*

*Yahweh will have need of me:
But if by a still small voice He calls
To paths which I do not know
I'll answer, O [Yah], with my hands
in Thine
I'll go where you want me to go.
Anon*

Deborah is a woman of courage, integrity and faith. She has seen Yahweh provide for her in amazing ways and, in turn, she has ministered to many women and children. Out of her little she has given and now there is a strong bond between her and the people of Kenya born out of devotion, dedication and commitment.



MISSIONS APPLICATION FORM

The Congregation of Yahweh wishes to support individuals from the Congregation who have a desire to experience, first-hand, the challenges of an overseas Mission trip – wherever it might be. If you feel called by Yahweh to go somewhere, be it for a couple of weeks, a month, or a year, we promise to do our utmost to support you in whatever way we can if you choose to do it through CoY Missions (the name used by the Congregation of Yahweh

for its Missionary ventures). An application form requesting details about you and your proposed trip is available. The information gleaned from this will help us to gain a better understanding of the level of support and ongoing assistance which will be needed leading up to and throughout an entire missions trip. You can order a 'Missions Application Form' by contacting me by telephone, email or post (see details below).



STANDING ORDER

If you wish to give regularly to the Congregation's Missionary Fund, you can do so by going into your bank and setting up a standing order or doing so via internet banking. The necessary information can be sent to you at your request.



DISCOVERING MISSIONS

If you are interested in the subject of Missions and need something to whet your appetite, a purpose-designed course, 'Discovering Missions', is available for a small charge. This will get you on the road to finding out where your Missions calling might be, and will also help you to explore and develop your understanding on the issue.

For further details on any of the above, or to order a 'Missions Application Form', Standing Order or 'Discovering Missions' course, contact John Thornton on...

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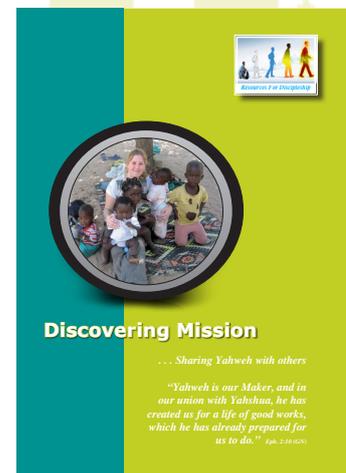
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Coming up in Issue No. 2...

A look at Yahweh's intervention into Bosnia & Herzegovina, Eastern Europe - through the work of Mission Ministries in Faith.



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