

## PRAYER LETTER FROM OUR FRIEND DEREK COPLEY

Dear Friends,

Like many of us, I am now gearing up to 'normal' life in this New Year. 2 weeks over Christmas were taken up with family, Sara, Jason, Reece, Ben, Jack and Erin, 14 down to 6, who invaded me from their church planting base in Madrid. Reece (14) is a chip off the old block and is gearing up to his first-ever mission work, in Romania for 2 weeks around Easter, teaching young people and having to raise his own support before he goes.

I had asked you to pray for my visit to my old school in Lancashire, in December, as the guest of honour for the 100 year celebrations. My 15 minute speech, in which I shared the Gospel clearly, has had quite an impact, and I am now processing e mails referring to those affected by it. One teacher has circulated it among his pupils, whose class I taught, where I talked about my work in Central Asia. I was also able to share the Good News with the lady Mayor and senior staff. Your prayers have been answered.

I am now negotiating with Tj and Az leaders regarding visits in the Spring. The process is slow and culturally very different from my Western ways. One of the features of my next visit to Tj will be to act as a consultant to a relatively new underground Bible College, who are struggling to work out what kind of training would be appropriate. I still have to find a way to be there without this time being arrested. I am well known among the K—and S-.

The Central Asia Forum twice yearly one day conferences are going from strength to strength. Most of the UK agencies are involved and many are now sending their senior people. In May, our next one, I want to launch the concept of agencies promoting Central Asia, saying 'we don't mind if you go with another agency, so long as you go'. One agency is already doing this in London by promoting Central Asia rather than themselves.

I am getting increasing opportunities to talk about Mission at conferences, house parties and churches, here in the UK. I am concerned that often there are only 2 days between travels in the next months. I am not running out of steam but I am aware of my age. My spine is causing me some problems, and the scoliosis disease has caused a recent shortening of another 1 cm, with the accompanying pain issues, as the nerves get trapped.

Here are a few of the key things to pray for:-

Jan 14-17 EEA Staff Retreat in Netherlands

Jan 27-29 Global Connections annual conference in Derbyshire

Feb 2 Preach at the URC church in Lymington, my first time there

Feb 5 Speaking on Central Asia at Poulner Baptist Chapel, Hampshire

Feb 6 BayLink committee (the local EA in the Bouremouth, Poole and Christchurch area)

Feb 18-March 5 Central Asia Consultation in Turkey

March 13 Council Meetings, Global Connections

March 18-25 Turkey

April 5-9 Turkey with the World EA

Blessings,

Derek