

A CONVERSATION WITH EVERETT.....



THE NETHERLANDS: FOCUSING THE WORK

For about two weeks, starting towards the end of January to the first week of February, Everett will be traveling to the Netherlands to work with Christians in Belgium and Netherlands. At this time, the churches do not have elders and he is going to talk with them about their vision and what he can do to assist them in their efforts to achieve their goals. These congregations consist of several nationalities from every continent, which means there is great potential for people across the world to learn about the love of Jesus. Two young couples (the men are blood brothers) are a key part of the work in (Jelmer and Rebekah in Eindhoven, Netherlands and Gijs and Arine in Antwerp, Belgium). Everett has had the privilege of helping to mentor Gijs and Arine for several years and is beginning to build a strong relationship with Jelmer and Rebekah. He continues to help them set and refine their ministry goals, while seeking ways to assist them in these efforts to bring more people to the Lord.

LONDON: BUILDING UP THE BODY

Everett baptized several people in London over the past several years; some of them are elderly. He feels the need to go visit with them to check on them and to encourage them. (At the time of writing this update Everett received a call to conduct the funeral service for the wife of one of the men, a key leader in the church at Tooting whom he baptized nearly 20 years ago.) He plans to go to London for the last two weeks in February. Some of his other plans while there will be to work with the elders of the Stratford Church and discuss what their goals are for the building up of the body and equipping the saints for works of service. He will also be teaching and preaching while he is there.

COSTA RICA:

Everett continues to mentor Heiner, a preacher in Costa Rica who recently began a new congregation that had ten visitors a few Sundays ago and was encouraged by this. Heiner is a very good preacher and evangelist and he works with to prepare lessons that will help the body to grow.

The Keller Church of Christ is planning a trip to Costa Rica. They have asked if Everett can go with them to help provide analysis and assistance in finding a way that they can help the Christians living there. This is coming up in the first half of the year.

Gathering at Everett's home with French neighbors.



*For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.
Mathew 18:20*

*So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.
1 Cor. 3:7*

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Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Matthew 28: 19-20



FRANCE: TEAM EVANGELISM

Everett's home has become a haven for God's work through Everett and others. It has become a "Gathering Place for God" where people can refresh themselves and renew their faith in Christ. This is not the typical type of mission work that people are accustomed to hearing about, but when we give God the space and glory he makes miracles happen. In December, Everett invited his neighbors from the surrounding area to come to his home to listen/discuss Handel's Messiah. He has invited these same people now for the two years that he has lived there and this year - they came. Pierre, the new Christian (see below) and his friends and mentees, Gijs and Arine from the Netherlands were visiting him at the time and they were very eager to meet and greet his neighbors. They helped serve them and the French were amazed by their kindness and openness. These neighbors had never really been around Christians and this was a great opportunity to show them the love of Jesus. In the following weeks, as they attended other gatherings, they shared with many others the great impression that this couple made on them and the faith in God that they possessed. Several plan to return to Everett's home to discuss the message of the Messiah as it is conveyed in Handel's The Messiah. Gijs and Arine were deeply impacted by their visit and are eager to develop what they are now calling friendship and hospitality evangelism.

One of Everett's happiest events from 2023 is the story of Pierre, a retired eye surgeon and French Navy Colonel. It was clearly God's plan that Everett find Pierre's house to buy and then end up becoming the best of friends and even Christian brothers. As Everett would share with his friend, Alan, while asking for Alan to pray for Pierre and his studying of the Bible and for him to come to the Lord. After several conversations about Pierre possibly coming to Texas with Everett, Alan asked for Pierre's phone number so that he could text him and get to know him before their visit. As Everett and Pierre's friendship grew, so did Pierre's knowledge of God and what he needed to do to become a Christian. Alan and Pierre also had numerous text conversations about the Bible and Jesus. While in America, Pierre, Alan and Everett all visited Key West together and it was there that Pierre was baptized by Everett. Pierre is unashamed to profess his love of God to anyone who will listen. Pierre is on fire in France to teach everyone about God's love and why they should want it. It is hard to truly communicate the level of Pierre's faith and passion for the Lord. Pierre wants to help Everett with several different people who are resistant to hearing the word of God and has asked to take the lead with one such friend. Pierre's journey and his new teachings are not orthodox work, like a set Bible study, but are examples of how Everett's home has become a gathering place for God's work. An important lesson that can be seen from the story of Pierre and Everett and Pierre and Alan is that all people can find work to be involved in to expand God's kingdom - people just have to find a passion and pursue it. Who would have thought a Jamaican, Frenchman and Texan would be able to communicate and study the Bible like they have?

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Prayer Request Corner

A couple that are friends with Everett that live nearby and are always very welcoming to anyone who comes to visit Everett. The request is that they come to the Lord.

Jean-Guy, who is a good and kind friend from the next village-that he can also find the Lord. Truly he is not far from the kingdom.

Spreading the word to people from the US, UK & India who have been introduced to God but have not yet professed their faith.

A retired French Air Force General (92 years young) who has spent time talking to Everett and Pierre is very interested in learning more about God. He spent time in Texas and Mississippi several years when he was a young officer in training.

Prayers also for Everett to be able to reach the people wherever God opens doors and bring more people to Him.

*The grace of our Lord
Jesus Christ be with your
spirit, brothers and
sisters. Amen.*

Galatians 6:18

