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CLC WORLD



2019 issue 4

M A G A Z I N E



CLC PUBLICATIONS AROUND THE WORLD



Life in the Spirit
Jessie Penn-Lewis

CLC USA
www.clcusa.org



Biblia povestită celor mici
Charlotte & Michael Berghof

CLC Romania
www.clcromania.ro



Suffering into Bursting
Joy Like Flowers
Hyunjoo Kim

CLC Korea
www.clcbook.com



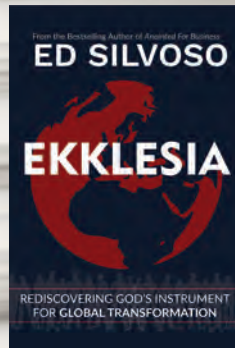
Il caso Gesù
Lee Strobel

CLC Italy
www.clcitaly.com



Transformados a su imagen
Watchman Nee

CLC Colombia
www.clccolombia.com



Ekklesia
Ed Siloso

CLC Kenya
www.clckenya.com

More than half of the born-again Christians in the world testify that literature played a part in their conversion.

~ Patrick Johnson ~

CLC – a Diverse Family

As you probably realise, CLC is an extremely diverse group of people. Operating in 46 countries, with national workers in each of them, alongside a smaller number of cross-cultural workers, CLC is made up of many nations, languages and church backgrounds. We come together under a shared vision to help people on their spiritual journey through the Bibles, books and Christian resources that we distribute.

We make a concerted effort to maintain friendship and the shared vision in a wide variety of ways, not least through the regional conferences that are organised. In recent months these gatherings have taken place in the Americas, Africa and Asia. In this edition you will be able to read of the experience of some of the delegates that met in Seoul, South Korea.

For readers in the UK, you will discover that a major change has taken place. CLC UK has merged with the Kingsway Trust to become the Kingsway CLC Trust. You can read about this on page 21. You will not notice any change in your local bookshop or on the clcbookshops.com website, and that is deliberate. However, we have the conviction that we should partner with like-minded organisations to achieve the mandate God has given us.

Finally, an update regarding our Spanish Bible Project. Thank you for all those who have supported this initiative to enable us to send out 45,000 Bibles to Venezuela, Bolivia and Spain. They are now being distributed into some very needy situations. Venezuela continues to suffer economic and social upheaval, and there have been major political demonstrations in Bolivia, resulting in a general strike. Around 90% of the cost of these Bibles has now come in, but please feel free to continue to support this great project.

Thank you for your support of CLC – praying, purchasing, donating.

Neil Wardrope



'The Team'

Contributions from:

- Neil Wardrope
- Sohee Yoo
- David Scouler
- CLC Directors / team members around the world

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- Neil Wardrope

Design by:

- Alessandra Platania

CLC ASIA LEADERS' CONFERENCE

Conference Comments, with an emphasis on 'Connecting'

"The Asia Leaders' Conference was an encouragement for me, and I thank God for the support and cooperation of the countries in this region. I am also grateful for our CLC Philippines team who welcomed and looked after the delegates during their visit.

The response, from country leaders and participating members from the International Office, helped to make it a very meaningful time, and I have been pleased with the feedback, especially comments such as 'Thank you for holding the Asian Leaders' Conference, I feel more connected now'.



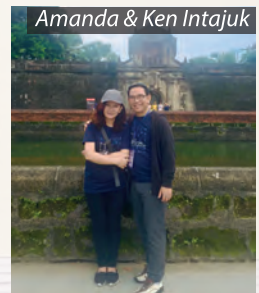
Group photo with the Philippine team

Our theme for the conference was *Connected*, and I hope and pray that the teams in the CLC Asia Countries will never tire of connecting and cooperating with each other as we serve together in the CLC ministry."

Romualdo Macinas, Asia Regional Director and CLC Philippines Director

"This was my first CLC Asia Leaders' Conference. Reflecting on the theme of *Connecting*, it was good to be reminded that more than anything else we need to stay connected with God. We also need to stay connected with others, and effective connecting means focusing more on communications and fellowship. I am impressed that we work as one CLC team."

Amanda Intajuk, CLC Chiang Mai Manager



Amanda & Ken Intajuk



Jacob Mung & Lewis Codington

"I was happy to have the opportunity to see the work of CLC Philippines, and their hospitality was much appreciated. Some important topics were discussed at the conference, and I trust this will lead to some positive developments."

Jacob Mung, CLC Myanmar Director

"First and foremost, the fellowship with CLCers from around the globe is always special as our Father brings us together for His purposes. Sharing ideas and experiences on current and practical issues was great as we face different situations and have varied insights to contribute.



In terms of *connecting* with each other, I felt this particularly through prayer and simply by asking each other questions such as 'how are you doing in this rapidly changing environment?' It felt like we were doing what Jesus would want us to do as a team. Lastly, the CLC Philippine worship band rocked for Christ! It was a great conference."

Sung Park, CLC Korea Director

"For me a very memorable part of the Asia conference was the evening celebration at the CLC Philippines headquarters. After visiting the beautiful Manila bookshop, we went to the conference room upstairs where the Filipino team had prepared a banquet in honour of all of the CLC guests. Following a time of praise and worship, we had a delicious dinner together. Then there were various presentations, including a national dance performed by CLC Philippines team members. It was truly delightful and a wonderfully unique time of fellowship."

Gary Chamberlin, Europe Regional Director



"Once I had become used to the humidity of Manila and rice for breakfast, lunch and evening meal, I thoroughly enjoyed my visit. It was a joy to see Sohail, CLC Pakistan, and Justin, CLC India, eating together just after the Kashmir crisis had broken. One of the encouraging moments for me was when Amanda spoke about how God had been preparing her for her new leadership role for CLC Thailand. She is clearly God's woman for the job, assisted by her husband Ken."

John Raby, Chairman of Trustees for the CLC International Office

"It was most moving for me to see Sohail from Pakistan again. I visited the team in Karachi over a 10-year period when I worked with them, but the last time I attempted to visit, I was denied a visa, so it had been 10 or more years since I had seen Sohail. To see him again, knowing the pressure and difficulties they face daily, was special for me. Additionally, the hospitality and graciousness of the Philippine team and their ability to '*connect*' so well with everyone was a real blessing and an example to the whole CLC family of how we can make fellowship a reality."

Lewis Codington, CLC International Office

Praise the Lord for visas granted just in time so that Justin and Sohail could travel, from India and Pakistan respectively, to the Philippines for the conference. We never take visas for granted and, in many cases over the years, these have been denied to CLC conference delegates. There are other reasons why people are not able to attend of course and, sadly, there were no delegates from CLC in Japan or Indonesia this year.



CLC WORLD News

CLC France:

Restoration and Extension



Restoration - Our Toulouse store has been completely renovated. It was the first time we have renewed the flooring and shop furniture since the opening more than 30 years ago! The bookshop was closed for a month and reopened

again at the end of August. We are thankful to the Lord and to the team that helped us in this major project.

Extension - This year our warehouse has grown by 600m². The extension work has progressed well with the aim of completing the work in November 2019. We will now have a major reorganisation of our logistics, especially for the shipping department, goods in and picking area.



Warehouse extension

Hervé Lessous, Director

CLC Mozambique:

Book Café



Café do Livro (Book Café) is a new initiative for CLC Maputo. The goal is to strengthen fellowship and friendship with customers, motivate their faith and expand the vision and mission of CLC. We invite customers to share the impact that the books they purchase have on their lives, which encourages others to read the books too. Customers also realise that CLC Maputo is not just a bookshop, but a ministry concerned with promoting God's Word around the world.



Mozambique Book Café

The first Book Café was held at Casa Koinonia, a missionary guesthouse. Nine people attended, including one participant via the internet! After a devotional message, one of our customers presented the book *The Cross of Christ* by John Stott. Everyone then shared their thoughts in response to the questions that were raised. We praise God for confirming, through the enthusiasm of our customers, that it is His will that this project continues.

Abel Chau, CLC Maputo



Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

PHILIPPIANS 2:4

December 2nd - 8th

Week 49 - December Activities

Monday (2nd) - Kenya

This week, CLC Kenya will present the Swahili version of the *Genesis Genealogies* in cooperation with the *Redemption Center* in South Korea. The launch will take place in Nairobi, December 3-4, with around 100 pastors attending and then in Mombasa, December 5, for up to 200 pastors. Four guests from the *R-Centre* will be participating in the events.

Tuesday (3rd) - France

At the end of October each year, CLC France sends 'Christmas boxes' of Bibles, books and gift items to 160 churches on a sale or return basis. The 160 boxes contain a total of 14,000 items! Please pray that many people will be blessed by this scheme, especially in places where there is no easy access to a Christian bookshop. Pray, too, for continuing good links with the participating churches.

Wednesday (4th) - Philippines

CLC Philippines has translated two books by Dr. Abraham Park into Tagalog in cooperation with the *Redemption Center* in South Korea. A launch for *The Genesis Genealogies* and *The Covenant of the Torch* is planned for December 17. It has been a lot of work for the publishing team. Please pray for the final preparations for the event, which will include a seminar hosted by a local Filipino who has attended a Redemptive History Seminar in Korea.

Thursday (5th) - Kenya

Praise God for the opportunity to encourage the younger generation to write and publish books: "On December 7, five teenagers will graduate after going through a one-year publishing training programme, during school holidays, arranged by CLC. We are expecting family members and friends to attend the event, and we have the potential support of a few corporate organisations including a bank, the Kenya Publishers' Association and other bookshops and publishers." - *Muthoni Omukhango, Director*

Friday (6th) - Panama

December is the best month of the year in terms of sales for CLC Panama. Please pray that we will have adequate stock for the needs of customers at this time. Next weekend, December 15, we will have our 'Special Christmas Sale' with discounts in all our bookshops."

- *Milton Cheng, Director*

The Weekend (7th - 8th) - Uruguay

"We are working very hard to increase the distribution of literature in Uruguay, which has been affected recently by the instability of the economy. We have had some wonderful opportunities to do this at recent events, and are praying that the Lord will open up more doors for distribution, especially towards the end of the year." - *Humberto Urrutia, Director*

December 9th - 15th

Week 50 - Updates

Monday (9th) - Central Asia 2

"Since moving to our new location, God has really blessed us. Book sales are doing well, and Bibles are purchased almost every day. However, we are still not managing to cover all our expenses. Please pray that we would find a way to resolve this. Please pray, too, for good sales in December. We may arrange a music event and some special discounts during this period." - *The Director*

Tuesday (10th) - Colombia

CLC Colombia has been planning to open another bookshop in the city of Medellín for a while. At the time of writing, it is hoped that this will be accomplished by the end of 2019. Please pray for a successful outcome and for God's blessing on this new centre of ministry.

Wednesday (11th) - Barbados

"We give thanks to the Lord and to our Christian contractor who has made all the needed repairs to our building. Not only are we now much more protected from bad weather, but when I asked for his invoice, he said "My Heavenly Father says there will be no invoice"! We are also grateful to CLC USA for giving us some shelving; we now have a 'new look' and are praying for good days ahead." - *Marion Manning, CLC Barbados*

Thursday (12th) - Americas and Caribbean Regional Conference

"We are very grateful to the Lord for the wonderful time we experienced during the CLC Regional Leaders' Conference in Mexico in September. We were challenged by the conference speaker to be relevant and to get involved in new areas. All the participants returned to their countries motivated and encouraged by their time of fellowship together." - *Humberto Urrutia, Latin America Regional Director*

Friday (13th) - Kenya and USA

During the CLC Regional Leaders' Conference for Africa recently, Muthoni Omukhango was officially recognised as the new National Director for Kenya. Around the same time, Charles Hurd, the interim National Director for CLC USA, was



confirmed as the Director for the remainder of the four-year term. David Scouler initially took on this role but had to step down when his visa to stay in the USA was denied. Please pray for wisdom and guidance for Muthoni and Charles in their new roles and responsibilities.

The Weekend (14th - 15th) - Central Asia 1

"We praise God for Nikita Sapunov and the CLC team in Moscow. Their support and the goods they send us are a great help. Please pray we will have adequate stock over this Christmas period and an increase in customers. The CLC apartment adjoining the bookshop has been rented out recently, but we need to find new tenants from January. Thank you for praying." - *The Manager*

December 16th - 22nd

Week 51 - Testimonies, Awards and Window Displays!



Monday (16th) - Kenya

Following CLC Kenya's attendance at the Nairobi International Book Fair in September, Muthoni Omukhango writes: "The Book Fair was the best one we have had since 2009. We had many orders for books, publishing, the Print on Demand services, and for the CLC Authors' Club. For the small stands category, we earned the second place recognition for creativity and theme interpretation. Praise God!"

Tuesday (17th) - South Korea

Give thanks to God for the recognition of CLC Korea's publishing work by the Government's Ministry of Publications recently. Dr Young Ho Park, CLC Korea's Director, received an award. This is a fitting tribute to his dedication to publishing over the past 45 years. Praise God for the many theological books, in particular, that CLC Korea has published for Bible students and church leaders.

Wednesday (18th) - Chile

An elderly gentleman in a wheelchair visited the CLC bookshop in Concepcion. He lives in a care home and came in with a lady who had been asking us just days before about the cost of large print Bibles. This man was determined to see and purchase the Bible himself rather than have it delivered. The lady who brought him also gave him a guided tour of the shop. Praise God for customers like this!

Thursday (19th) - Germany

Window displays are important and not just at Christmas! CLC Hamburg had a display highlighting the parable of the prodigal son. Along with books on the subject, there was an article explaining the verses in Luke 15 and a poster of Rembrandt's painting of the reunion scene. On noticing the display, a man came into the shop asking if CLC had books about aliens! Somehow he had confused the references to Luke with an alien tribe he was interested in! Valentin, the shop manager, was able to spend time with this man explaining the true meaning of the words in Luke's gospel.

Friday (20th) - Cyprus

"A lady who was in the area to visit a friend saw the Bible verse we have on display in the window and thought 'they must sell Bibles here!' She wanted to purchase a New Testament for her daughters, but didn't know where to go to get one. We spoke with her about the Lord and the deeper relationship she could have with Him, and she left not only with a New Testament but also thanking us for what we had shared with her. Please pray for this lady and her daughters." *Eva Photiadou, Director*

The Weekend (21st - 22nd) - Barbados

During December, a poster is on display in the CLC bookshop in Bridgetown. It reads: "Jesus isn't just the reason for the season. He's the reason for every day of our life." Pray that these words will have an impact in people's lives during the Christmas season and in the year ahead.

**Jesus isn't just the reason for the season.
He's the reason for every day of our life.**



December 23rd - 29th

Week 52 - Books and Gifts for Christmas

Monday (23rd) - Cote d'Ivoire

"We have a lot of new titles for children and some Bible games for Christmas. We also have a selection of books of daily meditations that we did not have before, as well as a variety of pictures for everyone's budget! We hope that this will allow all our customers to be able to offer gifts at the end of the year!" - *Martine Foto, Director*

Tuesday (24th) - Italy

"The Bible Storybook for Starters from Copenhagen Publishing House has been published in Italian by CLC and was launched in time for the Christmas season. We believe this Bible will be a blessing for parents that use it for a devotional time with their young ones. Please pray that God will use this Bible to speak to children's hearts." - *Ivano Cramerotti, Director*



Wednesday (25th) - Thank God for His Gift to Us!

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift. 2 Corinthians 9:15

Thursday (26th) - Praise God for Good News!

Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Luke 2:10



Friday (27th) - Belarus

"In Belarus, the Christmas Season continues until January 19. We plan to hold a presentation of children's books published by CLC Belarus at the end of December. In particular, a new full-colour book of poems, *The Wings of Faith*, by Elena Shamrova will be presented. We trust that both the author and the graphics artist, Anna Vosnesenskaya, will participate in the event, and we hope to have a musical activity for the children as well."

- *Lina Pinkevich, Director*

The Weekend (28th - 29th) - USA

"Pray for God's kingdom to expand and strengthen as a result of foreign language Bibles and books from our Multi-Language Media department, given as Christmas gifts. Please pray also for the distribution of our new Bibles from South Africa in languages such as Afrikaans, Setswana, Shona and Zulu! Our challenge is to connect with the communities in the USA that speak these languages." - *Charles Hurd, Director*



December 30th - January 5th

Week 1 - Challenging and Changing Situations

Monday (30th) - Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela

Humberto Urrutia, Regional Director for Latin America, reminds us of the need for prayer for: Peru, where CLC has taken over an established Christian bookshop in Lima; for Bolivia, where the future of the work is a concern, and we need to see improved sales to be viable in the future; and for Venezuela, where the situation generally in the country has been causing distress and difficulties for many people for a long time. CLC is, of course, affected by this too.

Tuesday (31st) - CLC International

"Following on from the busy Christmas season, January and February are usually taken up with inventories and end of year reports, in addition to the normal workload. These administrative

activities are important for evaluating the performance of the CLC ministry and for making decisions to improve the results of our work. Pray that we will be able to accomplish these important duties with accuracy and without delays." - *Gerardo Scalante, International Director*

Wednesday (1st) - Netherlands

CLC's apartment above the shop in Apeldoorn has not been used for over a year and is in need of renovation before it can be rented out once more. Please pray for the funds and the time to do the refurbishment. Recently, the team converted office space above the bookshop into another apartment, which is currently rented to a student.

Thursday (2nd) - United Kingdom

We are facing painful times with our traditional bookshops. As with many other retail operations, we are finding it impossible to maintain our shops on the High Street. At the end of January, we anticipate closing three or four bookshops. This is difficult for us, our shop workers and our customers. Please pray with us as we continue to adapt to the way Christian resources are distributed today in the UK. - *Neil Wardrope, Mission Director*

Friday (3rd) - United Kingdom

Despite shop closures, the Lord is opening opportunities in other ways. One such opening is with the Blythswood Charity Shops in Scotland. We are placing shelving with Bibles, best sellers and children's books, together with an access point to our website, in some of their shops. Ironically, this may give us much wider coverage in Scotland than our current bookshops. Please pray with us as we investigate a number of exciting opportunities that will enable us to work in a different way. - *Neil Wardrope, Mission Director*

The Weekend (4th - 5th) - International Director

The USA residence permits for Gerardo Scalante and his family will expire in April 2020. Due to changes in immigration laws, the application process is taking longer than usual. The Scalantes will have to remain in the country until they receive their new 'green cards'. Please pray that Gerardo will have his new residence permit in time to travel to Korea for the CLC International Council in May.



January 6th - 12th

Week 2 - Bookshop and Staff News

Monday (6th) - Spain

Please pray with us for more key contacts with church leaders and Christian ministries in order to help us with the distribution of the Bibles, *Jesus para Todos* (Jesus for All). Pray, too, for the teams in the three bookshops as we have our annual inventory this week. This needs to be done well as it is a vital process in closing the financial year and starting the new one.

Tuesday (7th) - Russia

Another Christian bookshop in Moscow closed down last September, leaving CLC as the only evangelical bookshop in the city. We thank and praise God that He has kept and sustained us until now. Please pray with us for wisdom and strength to rise to the occasion in order to make the most of the opportunities we have, and that we will continue to offer a good service from our bookshop.

Wednesday (8th) - Uruguay

After a time of training and preparation, Alvaro Silva will become the Finance Manager for CLC this month. Pray for Alvaro and also for Roberto Prochnau, who previously fulfilled this

role, as he now retires from CLC. At the time of writing, there is also a need for a part-time member of staff to work on CLC Uruguay's website. Please pray for the right person for this important job.

Thursday (9th) - Romania

"Despite continuing difficult times, for CLC and the country generally, we praise God that He has helped us to survive and has provided for us in different ways. We are thankful for our new worker, Angelica, for the help and support of the CLC International Office and for encouragement from Gary Chamberlin (RD for Europe), particularly regarding publishing. We are very grateful, too, for Cristi Cotovan's help with the website and the layout of some of our publications." *Ronela Mícula, Director*

Friday (10th) - Trinidad & Tobago

"A manager of a large grocery shop in Trinidad picked up a copy of *Prayers that Bring Change* by Kimberly Daniels from CLC in Arima. Having purchased a copy for herself, she came back again later that day for three more copies. Since then, she has returned for another three copies. She wanted to share the message in the book with her staff. Praise God for customers who purchase books to bless others." *Sandra Robinson, Director*

The Weekend (11th - 12th) - Italy

Roberta Donia, the Manager of the CLC bookshop in Rome, returns to work this month after taking maternity leave. Roberta, with her husband and their baby son Manuel, has also moved house to be nearer her parents, which means a slightly longer commute to work now. Please pray for Roberta as she adjusts to parenthood and returns to work at the bookshop.

January 13th - 19th

Week 3 - Europe

Monday (13th) - Belarus, Cyprus and Romania

Once again, we would value your prayers for the future leadership of CLC in Belarus, Cyprus and Romania. The three ladies who are the CLC Directors in these countries - Lina, Eva and Ronela - are all near, or already at, retirement age, but there are still no obvious successors for them. May they know God's peace in the current situation and see His provision for the future.

Tuesday (14th) - Netherlands

"After 17 years of service with CLC, including the past two years as a volunteer following her retirement, Magda Hoogerbrugge left CLC last September. We are very grateful for all the work she has done over the years and pray for God's blessing on this new period in her life. We thank God for a new volunteer, Margriet van Veen, who has 'filled the gap' left by Magda." - *Bertus Keuter, Director*

Wednesday (15th) - Hungary

"Áron, our staff member in the Budapest shop, will leave us in January or February this year to complete his studies at university. We need to find a replacement for him as there are already many different demands on my wife, AnnaMaria, who is Director for CLC Hungary, and me. We would appreciate prayer for a capable person to take care of the day-to-day running of the bookshop." - *Zsolt Karpati, CLC Hungary*



Thursday (16th) - Belarus

As part of the 1000-year anniversary of the city of Brest, the City Council and the Ministry of Tourism have approved a tour guide brochure highlighting the city's remarkable evangelical

history. CLC has been asked by the organisers of the tour to publish the brochure in several languages, and the guide will, of course, include information about CLC! It is hoped that this tour will be a regular part of the city's visitor attractions in the future, and all registered tour guide operators will need to know about the information in the brochure.

Friday (17th) - Russia

The New Year is a good time to make plans! The CLC team in Moscow has been considering the possibility of hosting Christian mini concerts in the bookshop. Please pray about this venture and, if it does start up, that they would have the support and interest to enable it to continue.

The Weekend (18th - 19th) - United Kingdom

In the UK, we are supporting a wide and growing variety of churches and conferences with book tables. We have formed an excellent relationship with the Vineyard churches, serving their events throughout the year. From January 28-30, they hold their annual National Leaders' Conference in Nottingham, and we will provide a comprehensive range of resources at this event.

January 20th - 26th

Week 4 - Africa

Monday (20st) - Burkina Faso

For two days a month, our team spent time fasting and praying for good sales in order to repay a loan from CLC Colombia. What a miracle it was for us when the decision was taken by the Colombian team to cancel the balance on the loan! In addition, we have received a gift enabling toilet facilities to be installed for the bookshop and office, something we have never had and that we were also praying for. With joy I share this testimony with the CLC family around the world." - *Sami Luc Noufe, Director*



Tuesday (21st) - Cote d'Ivoire

"The subject that remains a very serious concern for us is the 2020 Presidential elections. This affects our forecasts for the year and requires us to be moderate and cautious in our activities. Please pray that these elections will go well and that we will avoid the chaos of 2011. I am very grateful to the Lord for the protection of the staff and our two bookshops in Abidjan and Bouake."

- *Martine Foto, Director*

Wednesday (22nd) - Mozambique

"We have been awarded a basic start-up grant for a new CLC outlet in Nampula, in the north of Mozambique. This will be based in a Bible School and include a work-study programme for one of the students there. Please pray for the preparation of the space that is being allocated, and for us to find the right student to take responsibility for the book outlet." - *Liz Patten, Africa Regional Director*



Thursday (23rd) - Liberia

James Cooper, the National Director, left CLC recently as he and his family moved to the USA. At the time of writing, we do not yet have a replacement for James, but Laban Dweh is continuing to work at the bookshop and 'hold the fort'. Please pray for the Lord's leading as we choose a new Director, and pray for CLC USA, who are raising funds to help support CLC Liberia. - *Liz Patten, Africa Regional Director*

Friday (24th) - Sierra Leone

CLC Sierra Leone is in its second year of operating a Print on Demand facility. Please pray for Donald John, the Director, and his colleagues in the POD department as they try to source replacement consumables efficiently and cost effectively. Pray that they will grow in their expertise and quality production so that God will be glorified in all that they do, with content that will help people in their spiritual walk.

The Weekend (25th - 26th) - Sierra Leone

New Board members were appointed for CLC Sierra Leone recently to replace others who had completed the maximum term of service. We give thanks, especially for the outgoing Chairman of the Board, as well as for others who have faithfully supported the ministry with their advice and encouragement. Please pray for the new Board members, that they will be able to do the same and that they will have a good understanding of the CLC ministry.

January 27th - February 2nd

Week 5 - Latin America

Monday (27th) - Uruguay

“January and February is the summer holiday season in Uruguay and, for CLC, this usually means a drop in distribution. Pray with us for good strategies to help maintain sales. Pray, too, as we prepare for three Thompson Bible Seminars to be held in towns in the interior of the country in May. We want to make as many contacts as possible in these places and have a good attendance at the events.” - *Humberto Urrutia, Director*

Tuesday (28th) - Peru

Carlos and Luz Marin have moved from CLC Ecuador to manage a long-established and well-known bookshop, *El Inca*, in Lima. The bookshop, formerly run by *Latin Link*, was taken over by CLC last October. Carlos is grateful to God for the many opportunities already opening up to meet with pastors, churches and other Christian organisations, and for the interest shown in CLC’s mission and ministry. Pray for God’s continued blessing on the bookshop.



Wednesday (29th) - Venezuela

Delvis Blanco, the CLC Director, asks us to continue praying for Venezuela: “...that, God willing, there would be a miracle in terms of political change in our much-loved country so that we will see Venezuela begin to come out of the economic crisis.” As we pray for the work of CLC in Venezuela, which continues despite the hardships and setbacks, please also pray for the country.

Thursday (30th) - Bolivia

Please pray for wisdom in making the necessary changes to consolidate and build up the CLC ministry in Bolivia. Pray, too, for outlets for distribution of the Bible, *Jesus para Todos* (Jesus for All), that we have available in large quantities and at an affordable price. Pray for good health and strength for Gamaliel and Marlene Padilla, CLC Missionaries from Venezuela, as they lead the work in Santa Cruz.

Friday (31st) - Mexico

“Please pray for stability in our country’s economy. In recent years, the value of the currency has fallen compared to the US dollar. Many of our books and Bibles come from the USA, meaning they have become increasingly expensive in local money. In turn, this impacts our ability to keep up to date with payments to publishers.” - *Maria del Carmen Castañeda, Director*

The Weekend (1st - 2nd) - Panama

Please pray for us as we review our activities in 2019 and plan for 2020, following the inventories carried out in January. We trust God for His blessing and direction concerning our sales and finances. We want to advance with the projects we have for the CLC work in Panama and, where possible, to continue to support CLC International projects where there are needs." - *Milton Cheng, Director*

February 3rd - 9th

Week 6 - Asia

Monday (3rd) - Philippines

CLC Philippines is planning to purchase a state-of-the-art Print-on-Demand machine. This is a stand-alone, made in Japan, high speed printing machine that can produce an entire book in minutes. It is not a modified computer printer but a product of Japanese technology. Please pray with us for the funds needed for this project. We believe that this machine will be a big help in the publishing of books without accumulating large inventories.

Tuesday (4th) - Indonesia

"The publication of Christopher Flint's book, *The Bible and the Meaning of Life*, was delayed last year, but we hope to work on that this year. We also believe the book, *The Tabernacle*, from the Redemption Center in Korea, would be a blessing in Indonesia, so we plan to publish that book as well. Please pray for these two projects and for the resources needed to complete them." - *Donny Kairupan, Director*

Wednesday (5th) - Indonesia

Praise God for the blessing that the book, *Power Through Prayer* by E. M. Bounds, has been in Indonesia. CLC Indonesia decided recently to do a reprint of this publication, especially as a Reformed Church bought 600 copies and a Charismatic church bought 400 copies towards the end of last year!

Thursday (6th) - India

"Please pray for new members of the team in India who are currently in training and based at the Headquarters in Chennai. Pray for Gnanakumar, Vasanth, Kumar, Kevin and Joseph as they learn the various aspects of the work, and that they will be a blessing to the ELS (CLC) ministry in the future." - *Justin Chellappan, Director*

Friday (7th) - Thailand

Pray for Amanda Intajuk who has recently taken over the responsibility of managing the Chiang Mai bookshop and the role of CLC Director for Thailand. Amanda asks for prayer for wisdom and opportunities to serve the Lord, our customers and the church. Pray also for God's guidance as the small team consider publishing Thai books from the Redemption Center in Korea - *The Tabernacle* and the *Ark of the Covenant*.



Amanda and her husband Ken

The Weekend (8th - 9th) - Thailand

Last year, a suitable property for the relocation of CLC Chiang Mai was identified. The purchase depended on finally selling the CLC property in Bangkok, but it was proving difficult to complete the sale. The outcome is not known at the time of writing, but please pray anyway. There have been several difficult issues regarding CLC properties in Thailand over recent years, and it would be wonderful to be able to resolve them and move on.

February 10th - 16th

Week 7 - North America and the Caribbean

Monday (10th) - Canada

"We are in the process of developing a programme to reach out to the First Nations and Innu communities. However, Quebec, where CLC is based, is a very large province and these communities are small and widely dispersed. Please pray that we would find the best way to do this in order to make Christian literature available to them. We would like to find contacts and meet with people at their regional events as, for example, at Pow-Wows." - *Antoine Roberge, Director*

Tuesday (11th) - Dominica

The situation for CLC in Dominica remains a concern for prayer, particularly regarding the bookshop location. As mentioned before in Prayer Focus, the cost of renting the shop property has increased significantly in the past year and the search for a suitable alternative, at a lower rent, is ongoing. Please pray for the best location for the bookshop and for the growth and sustainability of the ministry

Wednesday (12th) - USA

"Please pray for us as we consider the need to either renew our Cedarbrook bookstore lease or consider a move to a new location. The lease expires in June 2021, but we need to make a decision, taking into account declining book sales, in the next few months." - *Charles Hurd, Director*



Thursday (13th) - Barbados

"CLC Barbados was established in 1957. Despite many challenges and thanks to the commitment of faithful workers, we continue today. Recently, the financial challenges in this small island have made our work more difficult. There is also a need for new staff members for the ministry in Barbados. Please pray for people able to drive the organisation forward during this tough time and ensure we are prepared for the years ahead." - *Gerardo Scalante, International Director*

Friday (14th) - Trinidad & Tobago

Please pray for the CLC bookshop in Point Fortin. Sales in this store were affected negatively when Trinidad's only oil company was closed down and, as a result, many people lost their jobs. Pray for creative ways to reach more customers.

The Weekend (15th - 16th) - Trinidad & Tobago

"At the CLC Americas and Caribbean Regional Conference last year, there were a lot of ideas, some of which we are implementing here. For example, we are using Skype for a weekly staff prayer meeting across all the bookshops, using social media more effectively to promote CLC, and we want to share information about CLC in more places. We already go into schools but are considering hospitals as well." - *Sandra Robinson, Director*

Americas and Caribbean Regional Conference - Team photo



Week 8 - International Office Staff

Monday (17th) - CLC International Office

Lewis Codington, a member of the CLC IO team, has many years' experience living and ministering in Asia, having previously served with CLC in France and the UK in the International Office. Recently, Lewis wrote a brief summary of each book of the Bible which, when printed, will be used in the English classes he gives to students from North Korea. Please pray for Lewis and for the students as they learn about the Bible as well as improve their English.

Tuesday (18th) - CLC International Office

Rudy Kuijer has worked with CLC in Spain and the Netherlands. His role now, for the IO, is to encourage evangelism and connect CLC with local churches to engage in outreach. Currently, Rudy is focusing on Florence, Italy, where there are many possibilities for sharing the Gospel among the tourists visiting Michelangelo's statue of David and with the large immigrant population in the area. Please pray for this 'mission field' right next to CLC's bookshop in the city.



Wednesday (19th) - Communications

"The IO Communications Department is important to keep CLC connected and to share our news around the world. The work includes communicating via social media, the IO website and publishing the *CLC World* magazine and *Prayer Focus*. Recently, Yaninna Scalante has taken on the role of leading this department. Please pray for her and the communications team as they implement plans to be more efficient in letting people know about CLC projects and in sharing prayer information." - Gerardo Scalante, International Director



Thursday (20th) - Asia Regional Director

"I thank God for the opportunity to be an RD for many years now. It is a challenging role, but it has also been enjoyable. Now I feel it is time for me to pass on the baton. Please pray for my final months in the post, for the person who will replace me, and for blessing and growth for CLC in Asia in the future." - Romualdo Macinas, Asia Regional Director

Friday (21st) - Africa Regional Director

"At the CLC Africa Regional Conference, it was decided that I would continue to serve as RD after the International Council this year. This means that I will still anticipate travelling quite a lot to the various countries as well as within Mozambique, where I live. Please pray for wisdom in planning all these journeys and the logistics involved with visas etc., and for health and stamina for the long distances." - Liz Patten, Africa Regional Director



The Weekend (22nd - 23rd) - International Council

The four-yearly CLC International Council will be held in Korea in May. This event is the main decision-making body of CLC International, and about 40 CLC leaders are expected to attend. Please pray for the planning and preparation; the IO team as they prepare the agenda; the CLC team in Korea as they host the event; the delegates arranging their travel plans; and the guest devotional speaker, Ron Perschky of *WEC International*.

February 24th - March 1st

Week 9 - The Extended Team!

Monday (24th) - Volunteers

In a number of countries CLC is dependent on volunteers, either as part of the bookshop team or in other ways, such as running book tables at events and proofreading (including this text!). Thank God for each and every one of these faithful supporters.

Tuesday (25th) - Retirees

CLC's worldwide team today is building on the work of hundreds of people who have gone before us! In the UK alone, there are currently 70 retired CLC members, one of whom has worked and prayed for CLC since it started! Many retirees maintain an active interest in CLC, and their contribution, through prayer particularly, is invaluable. Praise God for them.

Wednesday (26th) - Trustees/Board members

A good number of CLC teams around the world are supported by external boards. These men and women give freely of their time and expertise. In many cases, they have the ultimate legal responsibility for the local work. Please pray for these dear and valued friends of CLC.

Thursday (27th) - Church and Ministry Partnerships

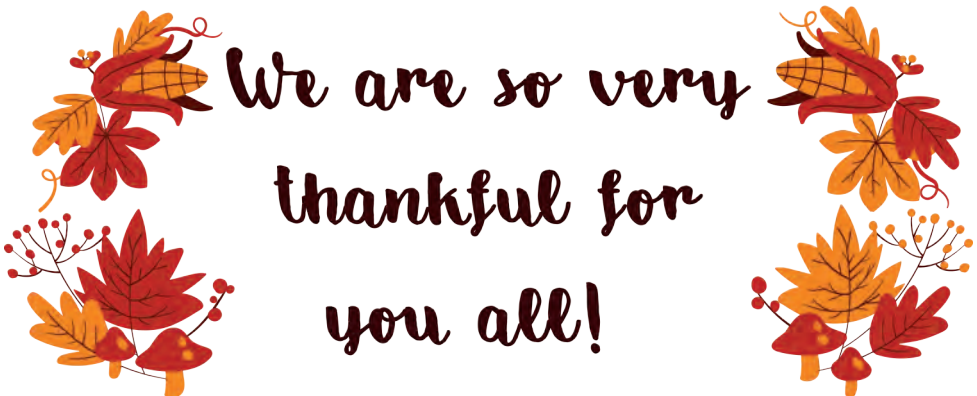
Praise God for increasing links and cooperation with churches, church denominations and other like-minded Christian ministries. Some of these are mentioned regularly in *Prayer Focus*, but there are so many more! Thank the Lord for good working relationships and partnerships.

Friday (28th) - Customers

Thank God for all our customers. Here is a testimony from Martine Foto about the encouragement they are to us and not just because of sales! "A Congolese pastor, who was staying in Ivory Coast, passed along our street and, led by the Spirit of God (his words), he found our bookshop. He was pleasantly surprised to see a Christian bookstore among the clothing and household goods stores in the street. He praised the Lord for the bookshop and prayed individually for each member of the team."

The Weekend (29th - 1st) - Prayer Partners

Anyone who prayerfully reads through *Prayer Focus* each month is very much part of the team. It is a privilege to have so many people supporting CLC, and together we are working to fulfil CLC's mission to 'make evangelical literature available to all nations so that people may come to faith and maturity in the Lord Jesus Christ'.



THE BIBLE STORY BOOK FOR STARTERS

When my husband and I first encountered *The Bible Storybook for Starters*, published by Copenhagen Publishing House, at CBA (Rights and Licensing Fair) in 2018, we immediately felt that many children and their parents would love this book. I definitely wanted to read this story, in both English and Korean, to our own two young daughters.



Although I liked the book, I was hesitant to work on a translation because CLC Korea specialises in Theological Seminary books and Bible commentaries. Children's books were a relatively new frontier for us. Gary Chamberlin introduced this book to CLC leaders, who are involved in publishing, as a possible project where multiple CLC countries would participate to translate and publish it in different languages. Thanks to Gary's introduction, I was encouraged and happily joined the project.

I enjoyed every single page as I translated them. The colours and graphics were very endearing. I am thankful that this book was my debut book as a translator.



The Korean edition was launched in August 2019, and in less than a month we had already sold about 900 copies. At one point in September, it ranked #7 in the Christian children's book category on one of the secular online websites. Many readers are commenting that they love the drawings and how the story is simple and easy to read. Even a non-believer purchased this book for her child and left a great review saying that although she was not a Christian, she has been curious about the Bible, a book that had been much loved by people for so long. This book became her first Bible storybook for her son, and also for herself. I was deeply touched by her comment as my work might be instrumental in leading her to faith.

I praise the Lord for this wonderful opportunity to translate, and I hope this book will encourage readers, including non-believers, throughout Korea to learn about Him!

Sohee Yoo, Planning and Foreign Rights Director, CLC Korea

CLC Thailand:

A missionary contacted us via Facebook looking for Thai children's Bible story books that he could use when he goes to a village for his weekly children's meeting. We sent him a box full. What a blessing to serve in this way.





...moreNews

CLC Italy:

Divine appointments



Every October there is an outdoor event in Turin called *Portici di Carta*. It is known as ‘the longest bookshop in the world’ as booksellers’ tables stretch out for about two kilometres! Luigi Gravina, CLC Turin, shares a story about an encounter at the CLC bookstall at this event:

“Our volunteer, Nello, and I had a wonderful conversation with a man called Giuseppe. He was looking at the book *If You Want to Walk on Water, You’ve Got to Get Out of the Boat* by John Ortberg, and I assumed he was a believer because he asked if there were other books by the same author. I explained that currently there were only two other titles in Italian, but it was possible we would translate and publish more in the future.

From then on he started to open up, and as both Nello and I talked about the Gospel we noticed how amazed and astonished he was. This was surely not of our own doing but by the glory of God.

Giuseppe was looking for work when we met him. We encouraged him to turn to God, talking directly to him through prayer as a child would talk to his father.

At the end of our conversation he bought the book by Ortberg and also bought a coffee for Nello and me! Our prayer was that Giuseppe would take up our invitation to come to church.”

Since this conversation took place, Giuseppe has attended church several times. We trust he will find a spiritual home where he can grow in faith and learn to ‘walk on water’.

CLC Korea:

Congratulations!



CLC Korea’s publishing work was recognised by the Ministry of Publications, a Department of the Korean Government, with an award presented to CLC’s National Director, Dr. Young Ho Park, in October 2019. Young Ho has devoted 45 years to the ministry of CLC, and this is a fitting tribute to his commitment and service. CLC is the only Christian publisher, among the 24 different categories, that was selected for an award.



WHEN TWO BECOME ONE!



On 1 November 2019, CLC UK celebrated its 78th birthday. Birthdays are always a time to reflect – to look back, and to look forward. CLC has been used by God in countless ways over those 78 years and, as we celebrated at our 75th anniversary, we are *'Forever Grateful'*. The stories of changed lives, of commitment to Christ, and of many helped in their spiritual walk are the reason why CLC exists.

It is plainly evident that our world has changed beyond recognition during this time. Almost everything is available within a few clicks on the computer, and the way we access and consume information would not be recognised by our grandparents. CLC has had to face up to those realities – bookshops do not work in the same way as before; people buy books online; they read eBooks and listen to audio books; and ours is a visual age, with images and the spoken word on screen often more important communicators than written words alone.

As we prayed through these issues, the Lord impressed on us the need for partnership. We assumed this meant closer working relationships with others involved with Christian books and media. We did not, however, expect that a relationship of this sort would develop into a full merger of two organisations! In just a few months, discussions led to prayer, which led to a decision: CLC UK would merge with the Kingsway Trust. The legal process was completed on September 25, and the joint operation is now known as the *Kingsway CLC Trust*. This new structure is fully recognised by, and remains part of, CLC International.

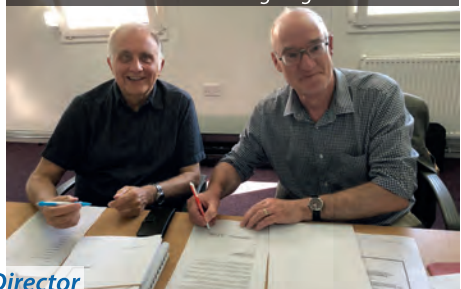
The Kingsway Trust is strong in areas where CLC needs to grow. For example, they have close relationships with film producers and a clear online strategy. We are very excited about the possibilities for Christian films, which now have access to UK cinemas, and for the opportunity to have a role in promoting them to the general public. On the other hand, CLC has a great reputation as a wholesaler and has an established history in retail.

The Kingsway Trust has now closed its warehouse in Eastbourne, with all logistics being moved to our Chester warehouse. Our distribution department will become stronger and thus better able to support the independent bookshops. Our website strategy will become more focused as some traditional bookshops close. At the same time, some exciting, but different, retail opportunities are opening up. More of that in subsequent issues of this magazine!

A marriage made in heaven? God spoke to us very clearly about trees being grafted together, and there is a great sense of unity as we move forward together.

Neil Wardrope - Kingsway CLC Trust Missions Director

From L to R: trustees Bill Owen for Kingsway Trust and John Watkins for CLC signing documents



PASSING ON THE BATON IN BOROKO

Pioneered by CLC missionaries from Australia and New Zealand, CLC opened in Papua New Guinea (PNG) in 1959. Now, 60 years later, the CLC ministry in this country has closed down. David Scouler outlines some of the history of the work, the situation that led to the closure and, importantly, plans for the future of the bookshop.

“From the outset, CLC in Papua New Guinea served a people who were hungry for the Word of God and Christian books. In the 1980s, there was brisk trading at the CLC bookshop as the local currency was strong with the US dollar. It was during this period that Ross and Heather Campbell managed the CLC work until they returned to CLC Australia in 1997. The management was handed over to local nationals, Ako and Lily Arua, and then to Vere and Maraga Babona. During the years that followed, the local currency in PNG rapidly devalued, and the price of books escalated. As a result, Christian books from the United States became too expensive for most people.

At this point, CLC Australia started *Christian Booklink*, a ministry to supply second-hand Christian books to PNG. This provided a great resource and was a ministry-saver for CLC at the time.

For over 20 years, Vere managed the bookshop but increasingly he carried the burden of keeping the work functioning during hard economic times and without, at times, much administration help, especially after CLC closed in Australia in 2014.



L to R:
Les Loader of CBM, with Maraga & Vere Babona

Early in 2019, a CLC evaluation team visited Vere to see what could be done to turn the work around. It became clear that the most obvious and logical initiative was to talk to another Christian literature ministry operating in PNG: *Christian Books Melanesia* (CBM). After several weeks of discussions regarding the future of the bookshop ministry in Boroko, Port Moresby, and the best way to serve the local people, all parties felt God directing us to ask CBM to take over the bookshop from CLC. This took place in September 2019.

CBM will bring to Boroko the benefit of 50 years' experience and its operations in other towns in PNG. The ministry also has a range of its own publications written specifically to meet the needs of churches and communities in Bible teaching, evangelism and literacy. Relationships with other Christian ministries and educational groups, including publishers, will bring additional benefits.

We praise God for the team that has served in the CLC ministry for all these years and trust that, as a new season begins for each member, they will look forward in faith to their future endeavours. Meanwhile, CBM is looking forward to continuing their legacy to serve the community in Port Moresby.”

David Scouler, CLC International Office



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