

clc.org.uk

clcbookshops.com

CLC WORLD

M A G A Z I N E

2019 World Report



CLC France



CLC Bulgaria



CLC Italy



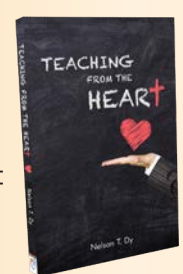
CLC Korea



CLC Netherlands



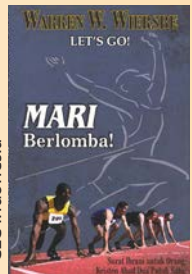
CLC Philippines



CLC Russia



CLC Indonesia



CLC Colombia



CLC India



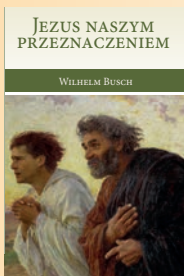
CLC Romania



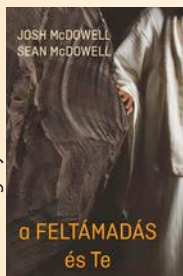
CLC Korea



CLC Poland



CLCHungary



CLC Kenya



CLC Colombia



2019 CLC International World Report

The pages of this World Report are the testimony of the challenging work of CLC around the world. Here you will find the plans and projects that, with the help of the Lord, we have been able to implement in 2019. CLC is still a mission based on faith, fellowship, holiness, and sacrifice. That has been the testimony of each one of the teams around the world.



Gerardo Scalante,
CLC International Director

I am very pleased to have been asked to present the CLC International World Report for 2019.

I am writing this introduction while many of our CLC countries are in lockdown due to COVID-19 and all are affected by it. As the country reports show, some of these countries experienced significant obstacles in 2019: unrest in Latin American countries, political instability, even terrorism and the on-going challenge of moving from sales in bookshops to online sales.

Yet, there are stories of facing and finding ways of overcoming these obstacles and challenges. Countries are working in collaboration with other ministries even, in the case of the UK, to the extent of creating a new partnership in the Kingsway CLC Trust. Countries are making great strides with online sales. I am aware of one that has actually increased its sales under COVID-19 due to its work online. Some shops are making use of social media. God's people are showing great generosity.

Disruption is the new normal. How much it is accepted and faced up to is a measure of how successful CLC ministries around the world will be in fulfilling God's call - the call to make Christian literature and resources available to all nations so that people may come to faith and maturity in the Lord Jesus Christ. Yet, this report shows how

it is a case of "by all means save some" (1 Cor 9:22) from mobile ministries in countries like Chile, to Switzerland where there is a continuing ministry but no bookshop. Disruption has produced some remarkable tales of God's provision to maintain the ministry in countries such as Thailand.

I had the privilege of attending three regional conferences in 2019. It was a joy to meet wonderful people who are serving God, sometimes in very challenging situations. Such times are immensely fruitful as ideas and experiences are shared and fellowship is experienced.

These reports show that the most popular title in 2019 was *The 5 Love Languages*; this is appropriate because "the greatest of these is love" (1 Cor 13:13). There are also several books on prayer, and support in prayer is vital as we look to God, particularly in this unprecedented time for CLC. We continue to pray for creativity in the use of social media and the digital arena, for opportunities for growth, for collaboration with other ministries and for people, especially younger people, to serve God in CLC.



John Raby,
*Chairman of the Trustees
for the CLC International Office*

From the Editors: Thank you for reading this CLC World Report. Please be aware that most of the text was written pre COVID-19, including the prayer points. We value your prayer for CLC – you will find Prayer Focus at the back of the magazine follows the same order as the country reports.

The population statistics are all taken from the CIA World Factbook. The percentage of evangelical Christians is from the Operation World website.

We would like to express our thanks to the many people who have contributed to putting this magazine together – the CLC Regional and National Directors around the world, the designer, the proof readers and those placing the material on social media and websites.

Editing by:

- Sheena Wardrope
- Neil Wardrope

Design by:

- Alessandra Platania
- Yaninna Scalante

Proofreading by:

- Jacqui Burne
- Cindy Norman

Social Media by:

- Alessandra Platania

AFRICA

CLC in Africa during March and April 2020

Other than South Africa and some countries in northern Africa, the continent has so far been less affected by COVID-19 than the other continents, and we are obviously thankful for this. However, the preventative measures put in place by governments, together with the prevailing social climate of fear and uncertainty, has definitely had an effect on CLC.

Our bookshops in Benin and Sierra Leone have continued 'as normal' but with a considerable drop in footfall and sales. Our bookshops in Burkina Faso and Mozambique were closed temporarily and then re-opened with a shorter timetable and with staff working on a rota basis. Ivory Coast managed to stay open throughout this period but had to work shorter hours due to curfews. CLC Kenya closed their bookshop, but the Print-on-Demand was able to keep going with a few online sales via a secular platform.

Since Kenya is the only country in Africa with a website, we have not been able to benefit our customers with online sales. However, those more active with social media have kept in touch with customers in that way. We are grateful that we have been able to keep on serving - especially as we do not know what the next months will bring.

During this time, CLC Mozambique was encouraged by two large Bible orders for the north of the country - one for a church (50 Bibles) and the other (210 Bibles) for a Bible School - even though all churches and schools are currently closed!

Also, at the end of one Friday afternoon, a young man came to our bookshop in Maputo specifically because he knew that we read the Bible and pray together before closing. He said: "I came for this moment. Please pray that we have strength to get through these difficult times."



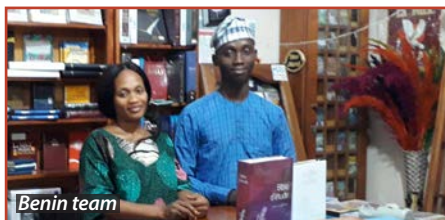
Liz Patten

CLC Regional Director for Africa

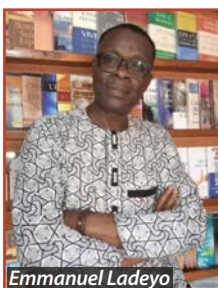
Benin:

Population: 12.9 million (8.3% Evangelical)
Date CLC work began: 1998
Ministry: 1 Bookshop
Director: Emmanuel Ladeyo
Bestsellers: *Multiplying Leaders, The Power of a Praying Wife, The Pastor's Manual*

In April, we had a routine visit from our Regional Director, Liz Patten. Bernhard Köcke, from CLC France, also visited with a view to further strengthening the links between CLC in French West Africa and France, as a primary supplier, and for fellowship within CLC.



As the National Director for Benin, and also the CLC French West Africa Director, I had the opportunity to visit the CLC ministry in Côte d'Ivoire and meet up with the Director from Burkina Faso there as well. Then, in October, I participated in the CLC Africa Regional Conference in Mozambique. This included some training in the use and benefits of social networks, which could be helpful for us and could be used to increase sales.



The CLC premises had some refurbishment work carried out, and the bookshelves were rearranged to change the layout of the bookshop and allow for better visibility of the stock. This also gave the opportunity to do some general clearing out. Plans

were made to open up a second, adjacent room to the main bookshop to allow for a door opening on to the street. This will be a project for 2020.

Burkina Faso:

Population: 20.8 million (8.9% Evangelical)
Date CLC work began: 1991
Ministry: 1 Bookshop
Director: Sami Luc Noufé
Bestsellers: *The Fourth Dimension, God Directs My Business, Be an Intercessor*

The strengths of the bookshop can be described as a warm welcome for customers - a clean and organised shop, a spirit of fellowship with the customers and good team relationships.

We are grateful to the Lord for His favour towards CLC Burkina. While we were totally discouraged because of poor sales, the Lord sent a pastor, who had bought many books from us between 1991 and 2016, with a message: "I know that you are discouraged but take heart."



This pastor drives over to pray with us twice a month, and there are others, as well as this pastor, who encourage us to continue despite the financial situation that is both serious and complex.

In April we had a visit from Liz Patten, the Regional Director, together with Bernhard Köcke from CLC France and Emmanuel Ladeyo from Benin.

We are so thankful for the partnerships with other CLC teams who pray for us and help us practically. This encourages us to give our best and to keep going.

Côte d'Ivoire:

Population: 27.5 million (10.5% Evangelical)
Date CLC work began: 1961
Ministry: 2 Bookshops
Director: Martine Foto
Bestsellers: *Divine Meeting with the Holy Spirit, The Death of Self*



During 2019:

- We experimented with sales of the Jewish Bible, which received a warm welcome from the customers.
- We identified several titles for theology students and placed an important order with Excelsis Publishers in order to satisfy this need.
- Sales in Abidjan were more encouraging while sales in Bouake have been struggling due to the local conditions.
- We received a visit from various CLC colleagues from other countries: Emmanuel Ladeyo from Benin, Luc Noufe from Ivory Coast, Bernhard Köcke from CLC France and Elizabeth Patten from Mozambique.
- We actively participated in the third trade event, Christian Bookroom, in Abidjan in November. It was a good opportunity to present CLC and do some valuable networking with publishers and local authors.
- Above everything else, we appreciated the activities at the Africa Regional Conference which was held in Maputo, Mozambique, in October.

Kenya:

Population: 53.5 million (48.9% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 2007

Ministry: 2 Bookshops, Web sales, Publishing, POD, Wholesale

Director: Muthoni Mercy Omukhango

Bestsellers: *The Purpose Driven Life*, *Africa Study Bible*

During 2019, we had four authors' training events, including one during the annual Nairobi International Book Fair. We also hosted our first Family Reading Picnic to encourage a reading culture in Kenya. Certificates and awards were given to the children who had won in competitions on essay writing, photography and illustrations that were centred on reading and books. Five teenagers who had gone through a publishing class from April to December also graduated.

We launched Rev. Abraham Park's book, *Genesis Genealogies*, in two cities attended by about 300 pastors and ministry workers. It was humbling to be used by God to impact so many pastors in this way.

We moved offices in July of 2019, a move that enabled us to cut significant rental costs. This enabled us to focus on the ministry mandate of impacting East Africa with Christian literature.

We had significant debt with a supplier. With a special gift and goodwill on the part of the supplier, this debt was cleared, giving us a fresh start for our ministry.

We received a new shipment of Bibles towards the end of the year. This boosted our retail sales, especially at the Eldoret branch. In addition to the Bibles, which were a gift, we also received four more gifts towards publishing and leaders' empowerment through Print-on-Demand (POD). We testify that 2019 was our best year yet, and we look forward to an even greater year in 2020.



Liberia:

Population: 4.8 million (14.6% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1947-95, 2012

Ministry: 1 Bookshop

Director: James Cooper (until September, 2019)

Bestsellers: *Lies Women Believe: and the Truth that Sets them Free, Why Pro-Life?, Marriage: To Have and To Hold*



2019 was an extremely difficult year for us as we suffered very severe cash flow challenges. This meant that, yet again, we were unable to order new stock from overseas, which meant, in turn, that

we could not satisfy customer demands for the most popular Bibles and books as well as for communion ware and clerical clothing.

Sales for the year were very low, and we were grateful to our landlords at Provident Baptist Church for their patience with our rental arrears. With thanks to the Tyndale House Foundation, we did some outreach using our mobile unit. We also did street evangelism in the area near the bookshop, preaching the Gospel and indicating the presence of CLC.

At the end of September, our National Director left the ministry to emigrate overseas with his family. This left Laban Dweh alone in the bookshop, and we are thankful to him for keeping the shop open for the rest of the year. It is worth noting here that Laban's father, Isaac, served with CLC faithfully for many years, both in the past before the original CLC ministry in Liberia closed as well from the re-opening in 2012. -Report by Liz Patten



Mozambique:

Population: 30 million (11.1% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1966

Ministry: 2 Bookshops

Director: Liz Patten

Bestsellers: *Biblia Para Todos (CLC edition, Bible for Everyone), The Purpose Driven Life, A Woman's Wisdom*

2019 was an eventful year, and we thank God for His sustaining grace.

During the year, we had two special events. The first was a workshop with Ramon Rocha (MAI) for prospective authors, which was attended by more than 60 people and much appreciated. The second was when we hosted the Africa Regional Conference and enjoyed the fellowship and teaching of Gerardo and Sylvia Scalante, Humberto Urrutia and Bernhard Köcke from the International Office and CLC France. Praise the Lord that all the CLC Africa Directors received their visas and were able to attend!

With the help of a friend of CLC, we initiated a 'rebranding' of the Maputo shop. We now have a new exterior sign, a roll up banner and matching section descriptions. Much progress was also made with social media, particularly Facebook.

In March, central Mozambique was hit by one of the worst tropical cyclones on record, causing terrible devastation in and around the city of Beira. We were so grateful that Sacramento and all the others we work with in this area had survived the storm, and that our bookshop was not badly damaged. It was overwhelming to receive funds for humanitarian help from Christians from all over the world; these funds enabled us to help many affected people with rebuilding their houses and providing basic needs. The cyclone presented unexpected opportunities to distribute over 3,000 economy Bibles that we had published a little over a year ago, which we saw as God's provision for 'such a time as this.'



2019 African Leaders' Conference



Sierra Leone:

Population: 6.6 million (3.9% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1966

Ministry: 3 Bookshops, POD Publishing

Director: Donald John

Bestsellers: *God's Generals*, *Books on leadership*

2019 started well with reported increased sales in the first four months (January – April) and again in the last three months (October – December). Even though we have not been able to order stock from overseas for the past two years due to financial restraints, we were still able to deal with local stock in order for us to survive the times.

In March, we employed a new Administrative and Finance staff member, Salamatu Sesay, and, also this year, a full-time volunteer, Lamin Conteh, joined us.

We are fully well aware that our Print-on-Demand Unit in Sierra Leone has great potential, so we have plans to expand the unit by investing in equipment that would serve the purpose of the printing project. We have not been able to progress with this yet but are gathering the funds for it.

We are grateful to the Lord for the CLC ministry in Bo City. During the period under review, the ministry was honoured with a medal and certificate of excellence in evangelism and distribution of the Word of God in the southern province of Sierra Leone. We were also given the opportunity to partner with a radio station in the Bo community, and that broadens our evangelism network as we were given air time twice monthly.

ASIA

CLC in Asia during March and April 2020

CLC Philippines was the first CLC country in Asia to close operations because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This leads to uncertainty, particularly regarding our ministries' future. But we know who holds the future.

In India, we had to close all 22 bookshops, the biggest number of shops in any CLC country. Even website orders could not be served due to shipping restrictions. Justin Chellappan, the National Director, arranged a 42-hour prayer chain among the 70 members of staff to pray not just for CLC in India but around the world.

Other CLC countries also had to close: in Thailand for a short period, and in Pakistan and Myanmar. At the time of writing, CLC Japan has four bookshops remaining open, but the two busiest shops, Ochanumizo in Tokyo and Nagoya, are closed.

However, throughout this time, CLC in Korea has remained open. Wonderfully, sales have even increased compared to the same period last year. God has a different economy! The ministry in Korea is focused on publishing and distribution. The team is very busy, with increasing numbers of Korean authors looking to have books published.

We thank God that, in the Philippines, we can still serve some orders via appointment and pick up. Just after the bookshops closed, we had two orders for Bibles, worth over US\$1,000.

One thing very evident at times like these is that many people have been changed by the circumstances. Some dedicate more time in prayer and reading God's Word while others, though they do not have much money, become generous. People really seek God, asking for His mercy and grace. This is my prayer that revival will take place in many churches and that people will come to God and find salvation in Christ Jesus.



Romualdo Macinas
CLC Regional Director for Asia

India:

Population: 1.3 billion (2.2% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1954

Ministry: 22 bookshops, Publishing, Web sales, Wholesale

Director: Justin Chellappan

Bestsellers: *Concordance to the Bible and Amy Carmichael* (in Tamil), *Golden Bells Hymn Book*

In February, 2019, we conducted a training course, which was a great blessing to the new trainees. By the end of the year, all four of them were serving with CLC in Chennai.

By the grace of God, we were able to reprint 45 titles during the year. One of our Tamil publications, translated as 'cities where Jesus lived and events', was accepted by the Tamil Nadu government to be displayed in all the libraries. We supplied 300 copies for 32 libraries. We pray that this book would be a blessing to the readers.

It was not an easy process, but we managed to relocate the bookshop in Mathikere, Bangalore, this year. In June, we constructed an extension to our headquarters in Chennai, creating a bigger room in which to keep our stock.

We conduct special sales every year, and they took place this year in the Chennai Headquarters, in Purasawalkam and Mount Road (both in Chennai), in Vellore and in the Frazer Town bookshop in Bangalore. It was the first time we had this sale event in Vellore, where the bookshop is situated on a hospital campus. It was much appreciated by the hospital authorities, staff and patients.

Technology is becoming increasingly important for us, both in terms of web sales and also in communications between ourselves and with customers.



Indonesia:

Population: 267 million (5.6% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1954

Ministry: 1 bookshop, Web sales, Publishing, Wholesale

Director: Donny Kairupan

Bestsellers: *Power Through Prayer, The Power of the Blood of Jesus, Hope Again*



Praise God for His faithfulness to the CLC ministry in Indonesia. Although we face difficulties, we praise Him for loyal customers that still come to our bookshop.

By the grace of God, we were able to carry out renovation work, both inside and out, to our bookshop in Surabaya. The display and interior of the bookshop is now very different. We hope that this will attract more people and give the best service to the customers. On the ground floor, we display books, Bibles and gifts. On the second floor, we provide a small meeting room for up to 50 people, and it is available especially for churches and Christian organisations.

Although we are grateful for the customers that come to the bookshop, we have orders that come in by other means, such as phone and WhatsApp. Parcels go out twice a week. We also continue to send out gospel tracts, especially to the eastern region where the Christian majority live - North Sulawesi, Papua and Timor. We work together with customers who are willing to distribute and deliver the tracts.

Bibles and monthly daily devotions have been best sellers during the year. We also praise God for the blessing that the book, *Power Through Prayer*, by E.M. Bounds has been in Indonesia. We decided to do a reprint of this publication, and a Reformed Church bought 600 copies and a Charismatic church bought 400 copies!

Despite the changing book world, we still believe that literature ministry gives opportunities to reach people so that they can come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Japan:

Population: 125.5 million (0.5% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1950

Ministry: 6 bookshops, Web sales, Publishing, Mobile

Director: Satoru Nakano

Bestsellers: *ESV Concise Bible Atlas* (Japanese)

Due to economic stagnation and poor church growth, 2019 marked the lowest sales in the history of CLC Japan. In particular, sales at Christmas were very low. As a result, our financial problems are becoming more serious than ever.

At the Kyoto store, the shop hours will be reduced, and the number of staff, who have served in the bookshop for a long time, will be reduced by one. In August, Yusuke Naito, the manager of CLC Ochanomizu, our main bookshop in Tokyo, left CLC. This had a big impact on the Ochanomizu shop.



We try to be creative in our thinking. A 'stamp rally' has been created as a collaboration between ourselves and two other bookshops in Tokyo. The three stores are relatively close to one another, and the customer has to collect a stamp from each one. When the

customer has all three stamps, they receive a gift. We are now planning the same idea in Kyoto.

We continue our mobile work, both with regular trips to churches, and booktables at special events.

One of the best-selling titles for CLC Japan is a book by Takamitsu Muruoka, an expert in Hebrew, Aramaic and ancient translations of the Bible. The book encourages people to read the Bible with an understanding of the original language to develop a deeper knowledge of scripture.

Korea:

Population: 51.8 million (16.8% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1975

Ministry: 1 Bookshop, Publishing, Web sales, Wholesale

Director: Young-Ho Park

Bestsellers: *The Bible Story Book for Starters*, *The Entertainer*



2019 was a full and busy year for CLC Korea:

In January, we hosted an Ancient Near East Forum with Dr. John Walton from Wheaton College at the Hyatt Hotel in Seoul. About 475 guests attended.

In March, Sung and Sohee Park attended the CLC Publishing and European Leaders' Conferences in Poland. At the event, CLC Korea's book, *Messiah*, won an in-house prize for the best book cover design!

We met as a team for our annual conference in May. Also in May, we published the book *The Entertainer*, the testimony of Choi Hyung Man, a famous comedian in South Korea. The book was promoted by the author not only among churches and Christian media but through his links with his celebrity friends as well. Within a month, we sold 1,000 copies and did two more reprints during the year.



In October, CLC's National Director, Young Ho Park, was nominated to receive awards from the Ministry of Publications, a department of the Korean government.

In November, we celebrated the 44th anniversary of CLC Korea. Lewis Codrington, CLC International Office, participated in this event.

Myanmar:

Population: 56.6 million (5% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1992

Ministry: 1 bookshop, Web sales, Publishing, Wholesale

Director: Jacob Mung

Bestsellers: *Myanmar Study Bible*, *The Lion Bible Handbook*, and a Bible commentary by Don Fleming

The challenges in 2019 have meant that it has been a rough road for CLC Myanmar. Some of the challenges have been the political instability, the continual high inflation and, particularly for our staff, the heavy traffic in Yangon that makes travel to and from work very difficult.

There have been some improvements in other areas. For example, the civil war in the north of the country ceased, and the sale of books in that area has increased. Although the bookshop is based in Yangon, we have a part-time mobile ministry as well so we can reach other areas with Bibles and books.

Publishing activities during the year included the launch of *The Tabernacle* by the Rev. Abraham Park and *Sweeter than Snow* by Christopher J. H. Wright. We also reprinted *The Lion Bible Handbook* (2,000 copies as this is one of our best sellers), *Church History*, and *The Bible Dictionary*.

We thank God for the opportunity for four members of our team to attend the CLC Asia Conference that was held in Manila and hosted by CLC Philippines. It was well organised and was indeed a blessing. It was a privilege for the Myanmar team to meet other CLC members, to have fellowship and to learn from them.



Myanmar team with wife of Vice President of Myanmar (centre)

Pakistan:

Population: 233 million (0.6% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1961

Ministry: 1 Bookshop

Director: Sohail Javed

Bestsellers: *The Case for Christ*, *The Mind of Jesus*, and Bibles, concordances and dictionaries



Highlights of 2019 include: the sale of 15 Bibles to a clerical training school of one of the local mosques; the purchase of 50 Bibles by students from the faculty of International Relations at Karachi University; and sales over Rs 600,000 in December.

The major event of the year was having a book table, once again, in September at the Sialkot Convention. It was a lot of work for the shop team, Sohail, Habil and Khalid, to prepare and transport the stock to the convention centre around 1,340 kilometres from Karachi. However, it was worthwhile as new contacts were established, which have proved fruitful. CLC also had encouraging book table sales at a more local convention at the YMCA.

The devaluation of the Pakistani Rupee against the US Dollar has led to high inflation, resulting in a higher cost of living and high unemployment. This has had an adverse effect on sales at the bookshop, especially as most Christians in the country are not high wage earners.

Another challenge over the year was the drop in gift items being purchased. In the past, the sale of gift items brought in some profit, but customers are now buying directly from wholesalers. We would like to produce our own gift items if possible. We are also working on a project to publish *The Case for Faith* by Lee Strobel early next year.

May the Holy Spirit lead us in spreading the gospel. The more we share, the more we receive.

Philippines:

Population: 109.2 million (12.3% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1957

Ministry: 6 Bookshops, Web Sales, Publishing, Wholesale

Director: Romualdo Macinas

Bestsellers: *Willmington's Guide to the Bible*, *Warren Wiersbe Bible Commentary Vols 1 & 2*, *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*

We thank God for another year of ministry, and we thank Him, too, for the regular events we are involved in each year. In April, we conducted the VBS (Vacation Bible School) seminars, with around 200 participants. We had a significant presence at the annual Manila International Book Fair in September and, in November, we held our CLC anniversary celebrations. This year, we marked 62 years of ministry with pastors and friends joining us for the occasion. The guest speaker was the author of our CLC publication, *Teaching from the Heart*, and we launched the book at the event.

In August, the CLC Philippines team hosted the CLC Asia Regional Leaders' Conference with the theme 'Connected'. Almost all the National Directors from CLC in Asia attended as well as other guests from around the CLC world.

A major publishing project during the year was the translation and editing of two books by the Rev. Abraham Park in cooperation with the R-Center in South Korea. The books, *The Genesis Genealogies* and *The Covenant of the Torch*, will be launched early in 2020.

2019 was not one of our better years for sales and, overall, they continue to decline. There are many factors, both internal and external, that contribute to this poor performance. Social media and the presence of the internet are two areas where we are affected with many Filipinos more interested in these than in reading physical books. For our part, we need to regroup and focus on what God has called us to do and to adjust to the changing situation.



Manila International Book Fair

Thailand:

Population: 69 million (0.5% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1958

Ministry: 1 Bookshop, Web sales, Publishing

Director: Ruchadaparn (Amanda) Intajuk

Bestsellers: The Thai Bibles, *The Purpose Driven Life*



Thank God for His faithfulness to the ministry of CLC Thailand. We went through very difficult years recently, almost to the point of closing, but the Lord is faithful and sent missionaries from the USA, Don & Betsy Veldboom, for two years to help guide the ministry in the right direction. 2019 saw a transition as the Veldbooms returned home, and Ken and Amanda Intajuk took over the leadership.

We give glory to God for a sales increase of 32% in 2019 on the previous year. We improved sales and increased our customer base via the website and Facebook. We introduced and promoted new products and worked to improve customer service. As the saying goes, 'Only satisfied customers come back.'

Other ideas we have implemented to move the ministry forward include setting up a discount scheme for pastors and seminary students and tutors. We supplied them with a book list to help them with their ordering and, at the end of the year, we gave a special discount. We also increased the ways of making payments via credit card and Pay Pal.

The bookshop atmosphere is important, and we have worked hard to make it welcoming, clean and tidy.

A major desire this year has been to relocate the bookshop. We are praying for the sale of two CLC properties in Thailand to go through in order to consolidate and have one suitable and affordable location in Chiang Mai.

EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA

CLC in Europe during March and April 2020

It is hard to overstate the impact of the COVID-19 virus across the entire European continent. As I write, the official numbers indicate that there have already been over 171,000 deaths in the various countries, especially in France, Italy, Spain and the UK. Another 13,000 people are still in a serious/critical condition. The actual numbers may be even higher.

Our CLC shops have been closed for many weeks in almost all of the 16 European countries where we are present. Only our single shops in Belarus, Bulgaria and the Netherlands have been permitted to function though few customers are entering. Thankfully, our websites have been able to continue, so we have seen a significant increase in phone and web orders.

Though restrictions will soon begin to be loosened in some countries, we do not know the final impact on CLC Europe. Clearly, it is substantial. Yet, we trust in the Lord - in His faithfulness and in his sovereignty.

With the bookshops closed, our countries are putting emphasis on communicating with customers through various social media channels, newsletters and WhatsApp. We have been learning from each other as we see creative ideas in one country that others can then adapt to their situations.

Our countries have done online promotions of various kinds. Spain is offering a free download of the Spanish version of *Where is God in a Coronavirus World?* France has promoted a children's book by posting a video of a child reading it out aloud. Carlos Cunha in Portugal has developed an excellent series of videos of influential Christians, including authors. They read excerpts of books and recommend them to be obtained through CLC. In the UK, our wholesale department is serving a number of website operations, including our own, and the growth online is significant. Hungary has been particularly active through their newsletters and creatively using social media to connect with customers in a more personal way, resulting in many orders.



Gary Chamberlin
CLC Regional Director for Europe

Belarus:

Population: 9.5 million (1.3% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1994

Ministry: 1 Bookshop, Publishing Web sales, Wholesale, Permanent book outlets.

Director: Lina Pinkevich

Bestsellers: *The 5 Love Languages*, *New Morning Mercies*, *Blotch: A Tale of Forgiveness and Grace*

We praise the Lord for one more year, with total sales higher than the previous year - partly due to book prices increasing - and an increase in internet sales.

We published five new children's books and held a presentation day for Sunday School teachers at the end of the year - both the author and the illustrator of the books took part in this event. We also reprinted the book *You and Me Forever* by Francis and Lisa Chan.

A visit from Gary Chamberlin (Europe RD) and Nikita Sapunov (Russia ND) was a blessing and encouragement for the team and gave us new impetus for the work.



Youth event

We arranged bookstalls for at least six different events throughout the year. The highlight was to run the bookstall at the International Youth Congress in August. It was held at the children's camp, Gemchyginka (Small Pearl), near Kobrin.

More than 1,000 young people from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine took part. We had reasonably good sales and encouraging contacts with similar ministries, creating new relationships that could influence the future activities of CLC Belarus.



Belarus team

Bulgaria:

Population: 7 million (1.9% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1993

Ministry: 1 Bookshop, Web sales, Publishing

Director: Lidia Dimitrova

Bestsellers: *Prayers that Rout Demons*, *Does your Tongue Need Healing?*



A highlight of 2019 was the changes we had to make regarding the re-registration of the two companies that make up CLC in Bulgaria. With this procedure completed, we finally had the correct registration,

which enabled our social costs to be reduced. We were under financial pressure for quite a long time until we were able to resolve this. We thank God that everything was finally sorted out with help from the CLC International Office.

Another highlight for us was the publishing of our third book, *Not a Fan*, by Kyle Idleman. As a result of much encouragement from Gary Chamberlin, CLC's European Director, we managed to complete this project right at the end of the year, and it successfully came out in print. We are very thankful to be able to finish this long-awaited publication.

On June 1st, at an event to celebrate Children's Day, we were able to provide a book table at one of the local churches in Sofia.

Central Asia (CA1):

Population: 5.9 million (0.7% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1996

Ministry: 1 Bookshop, Mobile

Bestsellers: *The Five Love Languages*, *Charles Spurgeon Sermons*

For several months, our shop was sublet to another organisation to provide some much-needed cash. During that period, the manager was able to partially serve customers in various ways, including mobile ministry and some book tables at conferences. The store started operating normally again in June 2019 after being leased for eight months. Of course, our customers were delighted with this.

The apartment we own, which is behind the book shop, continues to be rented, and this helps a lot in covering part of the costs. Sales of books and Bibles go forward but very slowly. Large volumes of free Christian books from another mission continue to flow into the country and this, of course, affects our sales.

We thank Nikita Sapunov and the entire CLC Moscow team for the supply of books and other products they provide for us. This is a great help for the bookstore.

Central Asia (CA2):

Population: 10.2 million (0.2% Evangelical)
Date CLC work began: 1997
Ministry: 1 Bookshop
Bestsellers: *More than a Carpenter, The Jesus Storybook Bible, Shepherding a Child's Heart*

2019 marked the 20th anniversary of our CLC bookshop. We invited local church leaders and company representatives we collaborate with to celebrate with us. Our colleague from Russia also visited to support and inspire our team.

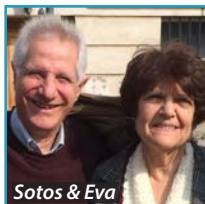
We announced discounts during the celebration period, which attracted more customers to the shop. This was our first full year in the new bookshop location, and we continued to see an increase in customers for that reason as well.

Over the year, we were able to add nearly 60 new titles to our shelves, both in Russian and in local languages. This gives us a lot of satisfaction to see a broader variety of titles available.

We are working on starting book publishing activities. This can be a rather complicated and slow process in our country, but we look forward to this developing over the coming years.

Cyprus:

Population: 1.3 million (0.8% Evangelical)
Date CLC work began: 1981
Ministry: 1 Bookshop, Web sales
Director: Eva Photiadou
Bestsellers: *101 Quotes to Help you Through the Mess of Life, Love Like You've Never Been Hurt*



Sotos & Eva

We are thankful to the Lord for the grace that we have had to keep the bookshop open for another year. The financial crisis of recent years seems to be over, and this reflects

on the bookshop sales as well. This not only benefits the actual sales themselves but, more importantly, it means that more people are touched by the Word of God.

There is an increased eagerness in our customers to purchase for themselves and to give gifts to others. At the bookshop, we are always glad to be able to present the gospel to more people. We are also glad to see more young people coming to buy Bibles as some of them gather together for Bible studies.

Towards the end of the year, we noticed that the Greek calendars, with daily readings that are mainly directed to non-Christians, were in a greater demand than previous years, so the possibilities for next year are encouraging. This leaves us with a hopeful expectation for still better days to come and for a future for this small bookshop.

We are still in need of younger people, whose hearts are moved by the Lord, to come and work here.

France:

Population: 67.8 million (1% Evangelical)
Date CLC work began: 1951
Ministry: 14 Bookshops, Web sales, Publishing, Wholesale, Logistics for other publishers
Director: Hervé Lessous
Bestsellers: *100 Names of God, The Tabernacle*

During 2019:

We finalised the acquisition process of the 7ici bookstore in Paris and completed the integration into our network. The official date was April 1st, 2019.

In collaboration with another bookstore and partner, La Maison de la Bible, and after two years of work, a *Special Bibles Catalogue* was produced in May. This is a catalogue of 100 pages with almost all the main Bibles we distribute to the French market.

We sold our bookshop property in Martinique and found a new location in Fort de France. We have to do some work to this new place before we can move in, hopefully at the end of April, 2020. In Toulouse, the bookshop has been completely renovated. It was the first renovation of the floor and the fixtures since the opening more than 30 years ago.

We now have three meetings a year in our headquarters with the main church leaders in Montélimar and the surrounding area. We appreciate this because the CLC work has not always been considered as a missionary work but, rather, as a commercial activity in the past. Also, in Montélimar, we had a major reorganisation of our logistics following the completion of an extension to the warehouse, which is now 600m² larger than before, totaling about 3000m².

At the end of the year, we had about two months of strikes in France, from December to January, 2020. The biggest impact for us was in our two shops in Paris with sales dropping by 40 % in December! We had never seen that before.

We are working with our software developers to provide the necessary configuration and integration to use the CLC website platform, but the project is still progressing too slowly.



France team

Germany:

Population: 80.2 million (2.1% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1948

Ministry: 1 Bookshop, Web sales

Director: Valentin Schweigler

Bestsellers: *Jesus the Jew, Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes*



Germany team

We continue to be grateful that we can stay in our shop premises for the next eighteen months, at least. In the future, it is possible that the landlord will have the whole building demolished to make way for something bigger and more expensive.

An ongoing challenge is to keep the bookshop running in times when people prefer accessing content via the internet and social media. There is some good content out there, of course, but it does mean people are less likely to look for helpful books.

Two areas where we had hoped for some encouragement and increased activity during the year sadly did not work out. A church situated close to our bookshop in Hamburg, with a predominantly young congregation, had shown interest in making use of our bookshop, but then they moved to a building in a different area of the city. We also planned, in partnership with another church, some evening events in the bookshop for Bible study and book recommendations. Sadly, there were not enough people interested to make this viable. However, we are still available to help, support and encourage churches with events in the bookshop.

A part-time member of staff retired, leaving us with fewer workers during the Christmas season. Praise the Lord, the day after we specifically prayed about this situation, we had a new helper join the team!

Hungary:

Population: 9.8 million (2.8% Evangelical)
Date CLC work began: 1993
Ministry: 2 Bookshops, Web sales, Publishing
Director: Annamária Karpati
Bestsellers: *CLC Publications - Thanksgiving Journal (local author), Ten Boys Who Changed the World, Ten Girls who Changed the World*

Perhaps the most important change during the year was the addition of Mrs. Gabriella Nagy to the Miskolc shop team. For about eighteen months, the shop hours were reduced, so we were glad to be open full time again. Customers appreciate it very much, and sales are improving. On the other hand, sales in Budapest and on the website were lower.

We are encouraged that our books are sold to more retailers now, including a shop at a Catholic theological seminary. We published three titles this year, two booklets by Josh McDowell and Blotch: *A Tale of Forgiveness and Grace* by Andy Addis in a joint project with several CLC countries.

One of our books, *Fervent*, was given as a gift at a women's conference to 600 attendees. The event is held in Debrecen, where we used to have a bookstore, and the organisers still want CLC to run the book table there. It is great to maintain the contact with them.

We also had a book table at a Christian doctors' conference. It is a new contact, and we hope to return there in the coming years. Unfortunately, we could not take part in the Summer Worship Camp due to Annamária's ankle injury, which kept her bedridden for a few weeks.



Booktable

Italy:

Population: 62.4 million (1.1% Evangelical)
Date CLC work began: 1956
Ministry: 7 Bookshops, Web sales, Publishing, Wholesale
Director: Ivano Cramerotti
Bestsellers: *Belief in a God You Can't See, Boundaries, Che Male C'è (what harm is it?)*



Samuele & Ivano

2019 has been a tough year for CLC Italy in several aspects.

The former director, Samuele Di Ruocco, suffered a brain hemorrhage at the beginning of February. As a result,

Ivano Cramerotti was elected as the new National Director. He was already the closest colleague of Samuele and had been very involved in many leadership decisions. Since it happened so quickly, this was a big challenge, and Ivano was not fully prepared to cover the multiple aspects of the role, so he went through a steep learning curve. Through it all, we are grateful that the Lord has been with us in this difficult process.

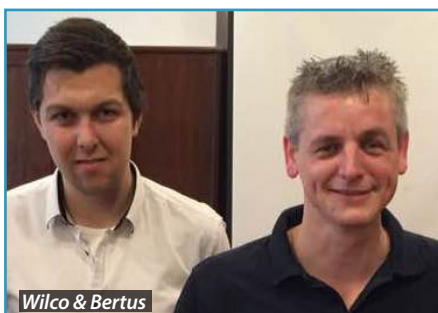
We had to close down the physical bookshop in Lugano, Switzerland, in 2019. CLC Switzerland is a dependent country of CLC Italy, and we managed to keep the website active as a virtual bookshop. This allows us to serve the Italian community in Switzerland, and the site also continues to generate many orders from our Italian wholesale department.

We also had to close down the bookshop in Palermo. We had already been discussing this possibility for a few years and, finally, we arrived at the point that it was, economically speaking, simply unsustainable.

We praise God that despite closing down CLC Palermo, the rest of CLC Italy kept growing, both the website and the shops. We are also learning that cooperation with other missions is vital in difficult situations, so we are increasing relationships with organisations we cooperated with in the past.

Netherlands:

Population: 17.3 million (4.3% Evangelical)
Date CLC work began: 1962
Ministry: 1 Bookshop, Web sales, Publishing
Director: Bertus Keuter
Bestsellers: *The Last Hour*, *Imagine Heaven*, *What Does Heaven Look Like?*



Wilco & Bertus

2019 has been a challenging year in different ways:

- In the first four months, Bertus Keuter was on sick leave due to serious health issues.
- At the end of March, our server was hacked. This meant a lot of extra work to get everything working properly again.
- In October, Magda Hoogerbrugge, who had been volunteering two days a week after retiring from CLC, had to leave us.
- In November, Jacob Teerhuis, chairman of the board, resigned after 11 years of service. He was replaced by Swawek van der Meer.

CLC has two apartments attached to the bookshop. The second one has had some renovation work carried out during the year ready to put it up for rent early in 2020.

Although sales in both the shop and online decreased by 7% compared to 2018, sales of our publications have increased by 8%, and we were able to print five new titles, including *The Resurrection* and *You* by Josh McDowell and *Faith's Checkbook* by C. H. Spurgeon.

Poland:

Population: 38.3 million (0.3% Evangelical)
Date CLC work began: 1991
Ministry: 1 Bookshop
Director: Eva Rymer
Bestsellers: *Jesus our Destiny*, *10 Girls Who Changed the World*, *Nic do Oclenia* (nothing to declare)

We were able to have successful book tables at large conferences in Kraków with 1,500 people attending, and in Szczzyrk with 2,000 participants.

We published *Blotch* by A. Addis and *The Blessing of Humility* by Jerry Bridges, and reprinted a book by the German author W. Busch, 365 x *Him* (title translation in English). We hoped to send two more small books to print in 2019 but, unfortunately, this took longer than anticipated.

We were delighted that the CLC European Directors' conference was held in southern Poland in the cultural capital of Kraków this year. We were very happy that all of the Regional Directors could also attend. It was a joy to welcome everyone again to our country, and we greatly appreciated the memorable fellowship.

After many years of using the same old website, we are very thankful that we were finally able to launch our new website at the end of 2019. This is a real answer to prayer for us. Our customers seem to be happy too!

A highlight of the year - many people heard the gospel message in our bookstore!



Eva & Sabine at a booktable

Portugal:

Population: 10.3 million (3% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1985

Ministry: 1 Bookshop, Web sales, Mobile, Publishing, Wholesale, Mobile

Director: Carlos Cunha

Bestsellers: *My First Bible Stories*, *A Christian's Pocket Guide to Loving the Old Testament*, *Palavra Desenhada (the Word in drawings)*

We continue working with a full-time and a part-time staff member. One of the big challenges is that we now have fewer volunteers to help us but have more work to do!

One of our publishing projects this year was to print 2,000 copies of a booklet from the Gospel Publishing Mission. One thousand copies went to CLC Italy and the rest were for distribution in Portugal. We also have plans to publish Josh McDowell's book, *More than a Carpenter*. Stas Tiede, the Director of Global Publishing (Europe) for Josh McDowell Ministries, visited us to discuss the Portuguese version of this book. We praise the Lord for the encouragement this visit was for us.

With the mobile ministry, we served several events at churches and interdenominational missions, travelling a total of more than 3,500 kilometres through the small but beautiful country of Portugal.



RtoL: Vini, Carlos & Stas (Josh McDowell Ministries)

The annual Coimbra Book Fair was, as always, an important 12-day event for us. On one of the days, we arranged a

book launch by a local author and, on another day, we offered a gift to visitors to our stand. The gift was a Bible text message painted on a bottle, and customers could watch it being prepared for them while they waited and chatted with CLC staff and volunteers!

CLC Portugal sales continue growing and, in 2019, were up 11.6% on the previous year.

Praise the Lord for the opportunities He is giving us to make evangelical literature available so that people may come to a faith and maturity in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romania:

Population: 21.3 million (5.4% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1991

Ministry: 2 Bookshops, Web sales, Publishing

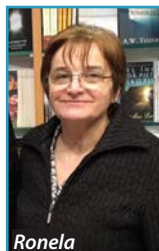
Director: Ronela Micula

Bestsellers: *Romanian Bible for Children*, *Secret of Happiness*, *Ten Boys that Changed the World*

2019 was a year of challenges and difficulties.

First, we reduced our team in previous years because of our inability to pay the salaries and taxes. Then, the crisis of the general work force in Romania, due to massive emigration, affected us. Three of our workers left in a two-month period between the end of 2018 and early 2019. Of the remaining three staff members (including CLC in Timisoara as well as Brasov), one was just returning from maternity leave but was due to go on maternity leave again. It generated a lot of instability since all the work had to be done somehow. We took the step of employing one of our volunteers. Praise God, it proved to be God's solution because within a few months she had become a valuable member of staff.

Praise God, despite all our instability, the sales remained stable enough to help us to keep working. Unfortunately, however, we could not sustain our publishing effort. We still have books in different stages in the process of publication that are not yet printed. It is a source of concern, but we survived with God's help, and we are now in a better place.



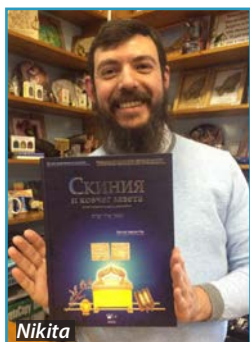
Ronela

We praise God that our increased publishing activity gives us a better commercial margin on the titles we publish. In addition, having our own titles means that we can exchange books with other publishers without having to pay in cash. This is a very common practice in Romania and is a great help for cash flow.

Russia:

Population: 141.7 million (1.2% Evangelical)
Date CLC work began: 2006
Ministry: 1 Bookshop, Publishing, Wholesale
Director: Nikita Sapunov
Bestsellers: *Blotch, The Tabernacle, Starter Bible*

2019 was yet another year of Lord's mercy for us.



The R-Center (South Korea) and CLC Russia had their first seminar in Moscow in July. The highlight of the seminar was an agreement with the founder and the chairman of the Independent Baptist Union, who opened the door of his churches not only

for this summer seminar but also for future cooperation with CLC Russia and the R-Center!

We have been trying to get the books that we publish into the major secular book chains, physical bookshops and online for several years, but we did not meet the requirements for this. Thanks to the Christian publisher, *Triada*, who was already distributing through the secular market, we were finally able to go through them to make almost all our CLC Russia titles available in two major Russian bookshop chains.

Because of the general economic situation in Russia, sales were lower than the previous year. However, with the closure of the only other Evangelical Christian bookshop on the streets of Moscow, we ended the year with only a minimal drop in sales compared to last year.

During the year, I had wonderful opportunities to meet up with CLC members from other places - at the European Leaders' Conference in Poland, and when I visited CLC teams in two other Russian-speaking countries.

Spain:

Population: 50 million (1% Evangelical)
Date CLC work began: 1966
Ministry: 3 Bookshops, Web sales, Wholesale
Director: Gary Chamberlin
Bestsellers: *The 5 Love Languages, The Purpose Driven Life, Masterlife*

Throughout the year, we continued to work on, and promote, the Thompson Bible Seminars, which were held this year in Madrid and Murcia.

Half way through the year, we received 20,000 copies of the Bible 'Jesús para Todos' (Jesus for everyone) as part of the Bible Project instigated by CLC International. We have been promoting and distributing these Bibles through our three bookshops and on our website. We want to facilitate individuals and churches to purchase these Bibles to give as gifts to new believers, family members and friends as a way of enriching their lives.

We continued to attend annual conferences around the country with book tables. For example, we have taken books and other materials to Women Aglow conferences in Toledo and Calpe, to a Conference in Andalucia organised by Fieide (the Federation of Independent Evangelical Churches) and to two national conferences in Gandia. It is always an encouragement to be able to make our material available to the people who attend these events. In many cases, we meet up with regular 'book table' customers, but we also meet people who do not know about CLC, so this is an opportunity for them to get to know us. It is good to know that people appreciate our service.



Booktable



Author Alfonso Guevara & Darwin

Switzerland:

Population: 8.4 million (4.4% Evangelical)
Date CLC work began: 2008
Ministry: Web sales
Manager: Carlo Ciafani
Bestsellers: *Boundaries, The Five Love Languages*

The beginning of 2019 was busy - searching for ways to avoid the closure of the bookshop in Lugano and trying to raise awareness of the problems among customers and local churches.

Sadly, on June 30th, we had no option but to close down the physical shop. However, we are thankful that many of our in-store customers have made the switch to purchase on our CLC Switzerland website. We also continue to receive phone calls from churches and individuals wanting to make orders.

The products we need arrive from CLC Italy's warehouse in Sicily, and a local church has given us the use of a space where we can prepare the packages. We are very grateful for this provision. We now only order what is requested by the customer and do not keep stock on hand. As a consequence, there is a waiting period of some days before our customers receive their packages, but they seem to be happy nonetheless. Although our total sales have declined, we are actually in a much better financial position to cover our expenses.

Because of these changes, we are able to slowly pay back our sizeable debt to CLC Italy, keep up our contacts and supply the needs of all of the Italian speakers in Switzerland. We praise God for His faithful guidance throughout the year.

United Kingdom:

Population: 65.1 million (8.8% Evangelical)
Date CLC work began: 1941
Ministry: 11 Bookshops, Web Sales, Wholesale, National Conferences
Director: Neil Wardrope (Missions Director)
Bestsellers: *The Five Love Languages, How to Pray, Can Science Explain Everything?*

Without doubt, the major event in 2019 was the merger of CLC UK with the Kingsway Trust to create a new entity - the Kingsway CLC Trust. This came out of a desire to partner with like-minded organisations and to confront the massive change in Christian bookselling in the past decade. Kingsway Trust has been very involved in film and music, with a strong presence online. The sense of shared vision was the key, and the merger happened very quickly.

The new leadership team was heavily involved in the implications of the merger - legal, financial, technical, missional and cultural. All the team have worked tirelessly to make this possible.

In November, the event Mission Worship was hosted by KCLCT, and we felt it was an important step forward in our spiritual journey. Our presence at other events and conferences has grown significantly. A key aspiration is to connect more closely with church networks. To be present with book tables at these events is part of this.

At the end of the year, we instigated a half day of prayer once a month for the staff members, which involves closing down the warehouse for that time. Our bookshop teams are invited to join us if they can as it is relayed online.



UK team conference

CLC in Latin America during March and April 2020

During recent months, we have seen how the whole world has been shaken by the effects of COVID-19, and Latin America is not immune from this crisis.

As of today (April 15), all the bookshops in the region have had to close their doors to the public, and this has challenged us to think how we can operate online. Both our websites and social media have become our best channels to remain 'open' as a ministry.

At the same time, many of our CLC teams have applied for all the benefits made available by national governments to keep our finances as healthy as possible. Others have been relying on savings and also negotiating longer payment plans with publishers.

While our doors have been closed to the public, some interesting initiatives have emerged. CLC Colombia has offered a free online course in digital marketing for all the personnel in Latin America, and 70 people have taken part. CLC Colombia has continued to serve both web orders and wholesale customers, and it has been encouraging to see so many orders sent out to their destinations.

In Uruguay, we are able to keep working from our bookshops without opening to the public, but we decided to concentrate our efforts on the main bookshop. In this way, we have been able to reduce costs, working half days. This has enabled us to serve all the orders received on the website and via WhatsApp. We praise God that we have been able to have daily sales averaging US\$400.

We maintain our confidence that the same God who has blessed us during times of abundance will also help us to press ahead during this crisis.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11



Humberto Urrutia
CLC Regional Director for Latin America

LATIN AMERICA

Bolivia:

Population: 11.6 million (16.2% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 2013

Ministry: 1 Bookshop, Web sales, Wholesale

Director: Gamaliel Padilla

Bestsellers: *The Five Love Languages, More than a Carpenter, La Ciencia de la Oración* (the science of prayer)



Marlene & Gamaliel

2019 has been a year of many challenges. Despite the difficulties, we were able to get involved in various secular book fairs, in church events and at conferences. We also had the opportunity to place at least ten academic library packs in universities and Bible colleges. During the year, we received 5,000 copies of the *Jesús para Todos* Bibles as part of the CLC International Spanish Bible project. So far, we have distributed over 1,000 copies to help the churches in the area of evangelism and discipleship.

In October, there was a general strike in the country that lasted several weeks. This seriously affected our finances, and it became necessary for us to vacate the bookshop premises that we were renting and to find ways of paying off some of our debts.

Our testimony is that, miraculously, God provided a new location for us through a Christian brother who offered us a place rent free for six months. Praise the Lord for this provision so we can store our stock and continue with the distribution.

Chile:

Population: 18.2 million (18.4% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1958

Ministry: 7 Bookshops, Web sales, Wholesale, Mobile

Director: Patricio Romo

Bestsellers: *The Five Love Languages, On being a Servant of God*

Every year, we promote a book we know would be a blessing to people. For 2019, we selected *Trusting God: Even When Life Hurts* by Jerry Bridges. This time, we invited CLC in other Spanish-speaking countries to get involved too, making it a joint project. In our country, the results were very encouraging with 1,060 copies sold.

We added two new vehicles to our mobile work. We now have six vehicles covering a large part of the country. The work is not full time, but every CLC bookshop has a monthly travel programme. As CLC in Temuco generates the most sales through this means, a vehicle with a higher load capacity was purchased to meet the demand around the city and the extreme south of the country.

We encountered difficulties throughout the year, starting with falling sales in some of the shops, including our main bookshop in Santiago, early on. During the middle of the year, we saw an encouraging recovery but, in October, there was a social uprising by the people of Chile that resulted in a period of social and political instability. All commerce was affected. Despite the difficulties, our bookshops continued to operate under reduced hours, and we could not help but give God the glory for the miracle of ending the year with a growth in sales and up-to-date accounts.



Annual conference

Colombia:

Population: 49 million (7.5% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1973

Ministry: 12 Bookshops, Web sales, Publishing, Wholesale, Mobile, Social Foundation

Director: David Pabón

Bestsellers: *Trusting God: Even Though Life Hurts*; *The Five Love Languages*; *Cuevas, Manuscritos y Revelaciones* (caves, manuscripts and revelations)

The work during 2019 can be described as a year when we saw the provision of God every month. This was especially noticeable at the end of the year as, in the midst of public demonstrations, we were forced to reduce opening hours and, at times, close the bookshops. We witnessed God's provision in our year-end sales figures, which were higher than at the end of 2018.



We participated in lots of events with book tables throughout the year and visited wholesale customers across the country using our two mobile bookshops. The publishing department continues to produce new titles, and this year we published around ten books. Two of the most notable were the *Covenant of the Torch* by the Rev. Abraham Park and *A Sus Pies* (At His Feet), a daily devotional for women by Graciela Aressi. The main impact of the devotional is the biblical content and thoughtful reflections, but it also has an attractive cover and full colour illustrations.

We give God thanks that, through the work of our Social Foundation, we have been able to help and support various people and organisations. We have continued our project to teach older adults to read. These are people who have not had the opportunity to learn how to read, and our purpose is to encourage them to read the Bible so that they can come to know the Lord Jesus.

Ecuador:

Population: 16.9 million (8.5% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 2001

Ministry: 4 Bookshops, Web sales, Wholesale

Director: Monica Rojas

Bestsellers: *Jesus Para Todos* (Bible), *Biblia RVR 60 Eco* (economy Bible), *Our Daily Bread 2020*

We give thanks to God for His faithfulness towards us, allowing us to work in the following areas:

- We have held promotions of our slow-moving books throughout the year. We are very pleased that these 'BBB' books - Buenos (good) Bonitos (attractive) and Baratos (inexpensive) - have been selling on a regular basis.
- In cooperation with the R-Center in South Korea and CLC Colombia, we held a Genesis Genealogies conference where pastors and church leaders were very appreciative of the Bible teaching they received and expressed a desire for more training.
- We took part in International Book Fairs in Quito and Guayaquil. It was a great blessing to be able to present books that edify and to share the message of salvation with people of all ages and diverse beliefs.
- We participated in two major events run by fellow ministries: one in Guayaquil with more than 500 Sunday school teachers and the other in Quito with 1,300 women attending.
- Thompson Bible Seminars took place in three locations. A highlight was the one held in the Amazonian Rainforest, in an inhospitable area, among the indigenous community of the Huaronis. It was a blessing to share with these people where there is a real need for training for pastors and Christian leaders. There is also a great need for food, and we were able to deliver food parcels, one per family. Thanks to contributions from publishers, we also left them with their first 'library' of Christian books.



Mexico:

Population: 128.6 million (8.3% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 2014

Ministry: 1 Bookshop, Web sales, Wholesale

Director: María del Carmen Castañeda

Bestsellers: *The Five Love Languages*, *Jesus en el Siglo XXI* (Jesus in the 21st Century), *Trusting God: Even When Life Hurts*



The team

2019 brought challenges that allowed us to see the hand of God at every moment. The first part of the year was somewhat difficult due to instability following a change in government. For CLC, this resulted in a drop in sales, but we were still able to host the visit of an author in February. In May, we invited another author and supplied the books for that event.

We had several changes of staff during the year which, in some ways, helped us to consolidate our operational processes with new recruits who were willing to learn and carry out the tasks. We had previous customers return to us, attracted new customers and established good relations with the Word of Grace Bible Seminary.

Towards the end of the year, we arranged our first mobile sales route to the western part of the country. This enabled the ministry to gain recognition away from Mexico City and showed us how we could develop the mobile ministry.

In November, we had a book table at a national conference for Training on Biblical Counselling and participated in the International Book Fair in Guadalajara, which was our first experience at an event like this. We ended the year in a strong position and hoping for much more blessing in 2020.

Panamá:

Population: 3.9 million (19.3% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1976

Ministry: 4 Bookshops, Web sales, Wholesale, Mobile

Director: Milton Cheng

Bestsellers: *Our Daily Bread 2020*, *The Power of a Praying Wife*, *The Five Love Languages*

In 2019, we had a slight drop in sales compared to the previous year. This was partly to do with the impact of an election year. There was a change in government and an economic slowdown in the country. We thank God that even in these circumstances we had a net profit and were able to keep our accounts with our suppliers up to date.

We give thanks to God for continued participation in the secular Panama International Book Fair and, praise God, our sales were the best we have had in the 14 years we have been attending the fair. We also had the opportunity to give out tracts and to be involved in ministry with children and young people, in collaboration with various local church ministries.

A significant challenge we faced was when we had notification, in June, that the building where our CLC Los Pueblos bookshop has been located for 12 years was going to be sold. We were only given two months' notice to vacate the shop. We had to establish a legal process to allow us to have more time - until February 2020 - to find a suitable property to move to.

At the end of the year, we put in place a Commercial Director as part of our plans to review and optimise our administrative and commercial processes and open up new channels for distribution.



The team, family, and collaborators

Peru:

Population: 31.9 million (11.6% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 2019

Ministry: 3 Bookshops

Director: Carlos Marin



The team

On December 3rd, 2019, CLC Peru officially opened in three existing Christian bookshops. These shops had previously been run under the name 'El Inca' - a part of the ministry Latin Link that has been operating in Peru for over 120 years. The bookshops are located in Lima, the capital city; in Trujillo on the coast; and Huánuco in central Peru. Nine members of the previous staff have stayed on as part of the CLC team.

Carlos and Luz Marin, having originally served with CLC Colombia, had operated the CLC work in Ecuador for many years before taking up the challenge of overseeing the new work in Peru.

A small shipment of books and other stock was ordered in time for Christmas. Although it did not arrive until the end of December, sales did eventually improve with a total of \$27,000, for which we were very thankful.

During December, we were able to arrange a meeting in Lima with around 100 pastors in attendance. It was a blessing to be able to present the ministry of CLC at this event.

We believe there are opportunities for CLC Peru to share the gospel through the Word of God and through the other means and resources at our disposal.

Uruguay:

Population: 3.4 million (6.2% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1948

Ministry: 2 Bookshops, Web sales, Mobile

Director: Humberto Urrutia

Bestsellers: *Trusting God: Even When Life Hurts*, *Amar es de Valientes (to love is for the courageous)*

We thank God for the past year when we saw God's hand at work once again. The distribution work has stayed stable and, although sales have not increased, we have continued to distribute Christian resources to many people.

The three Thompson Bible Seminars we arranged in three different cities are worth noting. We had good numbers of participants, and we are already planning three more seminars for 2020. We have also provided various book tables in churches, giving us opportunities to meet more people and share more about the CLC ministry.

Our second bookshop, located near the main bus terminal in Montevideo, is visited by many people from the interior of the country. The shop manager, Sonia, is very committed to the work of CLC and to sharing the gospel with the visitors who do not know the Lord. We trust God for blessing from this ministry and through the purchases made to take back to other parts of the country.

One of the biggest challenges has been the search for new personnel, bearing in mind we are looking to the future of CLC and that some of the current staff are approaching the age when they will need to be replaced. We are grateful to the Lord for the people He has brought to us. We need wisdom and good training to prepare them well for the tasks ahead.



Uruguay mobile



2019 The Americas and Caribbean Leaders' Conference



Venezuela:

Population: 28.6 million (10.8% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1970

Ministry: 6 Bookshops, Web sales

Director: Delvis Blanco

Bestsellers: *The Power of a Praying Wife*, *The Five Love Languages*, *Our Daily Bread*



The political, social and economic climate that has prevailed now for several years has affected all of our activities, both on a personal level as well as the ministry of CLC. The continued hyper-inflation reduces the value of the Venezuelan currency continually and, as a result, our ability to buy even the products that are available.

In addition to these difficulties, we have had ongoing issues with the internet. This has impeded the normal functions of CLC - our ability to connect with each other, the publishers and the International Office.

Despite these negative circumstances, we want to give thanks to God for a miraculous shipment of Bibles. We received a donation of *Jesus para Todos* Bibles via the CLC International Office - 20,000 Bibles on twenty pallets. To our great delight, Harper Collins offered to fill the rest of the container with a further 20 pallets of Bibles! Despite an extended and tricky process to get the container released from Customs, the Lord enabled us to receive this wonderful provision of Bibles. With a good supply of Bibles, we were able to plan a 'Day of the Bible' in September. The donated Bible, *Jesus para Todos*, was one of the most requested by our customers.

In November, we combined a Day of Thanksgiving with Black Friday, and we were able to promote both our bookshops and the website. We trust that the Bibles that we have been able to distribute will have a spiritual impact. Many of them emphasise the promises of God and contain a Plan of Salvation.

NORTH AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

CLC in North America & The Caribbean during March and April 2020

All our shops in the region were closed from late March for a minimum of four weeks. As we know, the USA has recorded the highest level of COVID-19 related deaths, not least in the Philadelphia area where we are based. In Canada, we have three bookshops in Montreal, the city most affected by the virus in the country.

In the Caribbean, the islands were spared the levels of infections seen elsewhere. All the countries are now working through a process of gradually opening up, trying to avoid a 'second spike'.

The Caribbean islands, in particular, are heavily dependent on tourism and it is hard to see when this vital source of income will be restored.

The USA and Canada teams are seeing significant activity online, with Canada reporting web and telephone sales three to four times that of the Christmas season last year. CLC USA is reporting significant interest in their Multi-Language Media books. One weekend in April they had their highest ever number of orders with Bibles being requested in French, Portuguese, Slovakian, Maori, Japanese, Russian, Arabic, Pashto, Nepali, Haitian Creole, Tigrinya, Turkish, Serbian, Punjabi, Swahili, Croatian and German.

The USA team launched a campaign with the theme 'Easter is not cancelled'. Our church buildings may be closed but the work of the Kingdom continues.

Our small team in Dominica recognise that it will be very difficult to survive the financial implications of the crisis but, even so, since the re-opening of the shop they have spent time praying with customers who are very grateful for this spiritual support.

Please pray that our teams will be able to navigate a way out of this crisis in the coming months. This next stage may be more difficult than the lockdown itself, but we want to continue reaching out to those in spiritual need.



Neil Wardrope
CLC World Editor

Antigua:

Population: 98,200 (19.9% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1961

Ministry: 1 Bookshop

Manager: Arah Martin

Bestsellers: *Prayers that Rout Demons, Prayer Rain, The Power of a Praying Wife*

Although books on prayer sell well, our main best sellers are Bibles. In September and October, 2019, we had a special Bible promotion due to an excellent offer from a supplier, which brought in more customers. Then, in November, we had an anniversary sale with discounts of 10 - 50 % on slow-selling items.

The present decline in the economy has caused a parallel decline in sales. People are no longer buying what they do not consider an absolute necessity. Also, people seem to be more interested in technology than the written word.

Our main advertising strategy has been through Facebook. However, in 2019, we decided to reduce this as another Christian bookshop in the city has been tracking our ads and using them as a means to source the same books and compete with us.

Occasionally, during the year, we had a sidewalk sale where we put a table and some books on the sidewalk outside the store. The response was mediocre. We maintain two display windows at the front of the store.



Barbados:

Population: 294,560 (34.2% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1957

Ministry: 1 Bookshop

Manager: Marion Manning

Bestsellers: *Developing the Leader within You 2.0, Gifted Hands*



In April, 2019, the most recent Director for the ministry in Barbados, Wilbert Charles, left the team and Marion Manning took over the role once more. We had a visit from Gerardo Scalante, the International Director for CLC, who is also the interim Regional Director for CLC in the Caribbean.

Around the middle of the year, we had some much-needed repair work done to the shop roof and a wall completed by a Christian contractor. This, along with some paintwork to the interior and exterior of the shop, gave the building a much-needed facelift. Metal shelving sent from CLC USA was also installed. We are thankful that we were spared the potential ravages of hurricane Dorian in August and that the leaking roof was fixed in time.

In terms of events, we have taken book tables to a school and also to conferences with groups of Christians with whom some of our shop staff are associated. We also had a book table at a women's event at Christmas.

Canada:

Population: 37.7 million (7.7% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1944

Ministry: 3 Bookshops, Web sales, Publishing, Wholesale

Director: Antoine Roberge

Bestsellers: *More than a Carpenter*, *My First Bible (with handle)*, *Practical Spiritual Warfare Through Prayer*

After years of instability and the danger of closure, 2019 was marked by increased stability in our operations. Our team continues to do an excellent job and is very well trained. Team members consistently have good interactions with our valued customers, many of whom are regulars.

Most importantly, it has been a year in which the Lord has inspired us with important projects to implement in the near future. The two most important are reaching out to First Nations people in remote areas of our province, and the second is the opportunity God has given us to greatly increase our presence in the area of distribution.

During my career as a pastor and director of various organisations, including CLC Canada, I have had the opportunity to attend many conferences in different settings. The Regional Directors' Conference in Mexico City was, for me, to the best of my recollection, certainly the most profitable! Yet, I had arrived there thinking that I had a lot to do and that attending this conference was probably not the best use of my time. To my great surprise, it was quite the opposite! The Lord knows our disposition of heart and knows how to surprise us if we at least give Him room. I changed from being like Martha, in John 11, to being like Mary. Praise Him!



The team

Dominica:

Population: 74,243 (16.8% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1947

Ministry: 1 Bookshop

Manager: David Laudat

Bestsellers: *Prepare for War*, *Prayer Rain*, *The Power of a Praying Woman*

Based on reports from customers, the CLC ministry in Dominica was still needed in 2019, and we continued to serve despite the challenges we faced.

A high rent increase in 2018 seriously affected

our cash flow. One result of this meant that we were operating with limited stock because of our inability to purchase. In addition, a decline in the nation's economy resulted in a drastic decline in sales.

During the year, we were assisted tremendously by two shipments of books from CLC USA through the BookLink programme. We also had several opportunities to advertise our books, free of charge, on a national Christian radio station, Voice of Life.

In May, we hosted a prayer breakfast, which was attended by two members of the Board as well as friends of the ministry. We prayed for the CLC ministry in Dominica and around the world. In October, we held our annual Bible day, promoting the Word of God in front of the store, offering discounts on Bibles and running a Bible quiz. On another occasion, we ran an outreach event with a saxophone player from the Voice of Life radio station playing while we ministered to the public.

Our lack of ability to purchase stock played a part in the drop in sales at Christmas as we did not have so many gift items available.



Ministry time outside the shop

Trinidad & Tobago:

Population: 1.2 million (20.2% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1951

Ministry: 5 Bookshops

Manager: Sandra Robinson

Bestsellers: *Prayers that Rout Demons, Prayer Rain, The Rules of Engagement*

2019 was an extremely challenging year with each bookstore having its own individual challenges:

Sales at our San Fernando store declined drastically, so we decided to take the literature to the people by means of mobile sales in the far eastern districts. With the closure of a major oil refinery, we saw a drop in sales at our Point Fortin store. Walk-in customers at the Port of Spain bookstore decreased substantially, and our Arima store, located in a shopping mall, also experienced a decline in sales.

Our main event of the year was the relocation of the bookstore in Tobago in July. We moved to a newly-constructed mall in the centre of the city. So far, sales have not been what was expected, and the mall itself has been slow generally, except for the food courts and the numerous school children who gather in the mall on a daily basis.

In June, 2019, just prior to the opening of the Tobago store, we ran a book table and distributed flyers at the Hillsong London show in Tobago, but sales were disappointing. It was a long, tiring evening for Marsha, Lester and me. We had other booktables in 2019, but people were not buying. They seem more interested in physical food than spiritual food.



For the three months from November 2019 to January 2020, we had staff prayer sessions on Skype every Monday morning at 8 am. I got this strategy from Antoine Roberge (CLC Canada) at the CLC Americas Leadership

Conference in Mexico. Also, at the conference, I was encouraged by Gary Chamberlin to work more with social media, and I have been working on familiarising myself with the possibilities and opportunities and making plans for 2020.

United States:

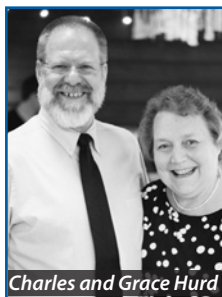
Population: 329.3 million (28.9% Evangelical)

Date CLC work began: 1947

Ministry: 1 Bookshop, Web sales, Publishing, Wholesale, Multi-Language Media

Director: Charles Hurd

Bestsellers: *Jesus Calling, Haitian New Testament (MLM), Sit, Walk, Stand*



Charles and Grace Hurd

Change is constant - goodbyes and welcomes as we had significant staff changes in various departments. Our bookstore in Moorestown, New Jersey, closed in March and former CLCer Robbie Halstead was contracted to oversee

the Cedarbrook store. David Scouler resigned as National Director in April after being denied a US work visa, and Charles Hurd began serving as interim director. He was confirmed as National Director in November.

Our first devotional "reading plan" was launched on the YouVersion Bible app platform in January and, within a few months, had over 10,000 completions! Multi-Language Media, in partnership with Bible for the Nations, gave away 20,000 Biker Bibles at Daytona Bike Week in Florida. This brought much publicity and steady sales.

We praise God for His provision as we were able to stay current on all bill payments in an environment where many bookshops closed, including the largest remaining Christian bookstore chain in the country, Lifeway.

We continue to pray and seek the Lord's direction for the ministry that He has entrusted to us, and we ask for your continued prayers and encouragement as we strive to make Christian literature and media available to all nations so that people may come to faith and maturity in the Lord Jesus Christ.



Prayer Focus: World Report

Week 23 - June 1st to 7th (Africa)

Monday - Benin:

Emmanuel Ladeyo shares a praise point, which could be echoed by CLC around the world when an unexpected and much appreciated big order is made: "We bless the LORD who encourages us with occasional customers who buy in larger quantities."

Tuesday - Benin:

We give thanks to God that, for the time being, the landlord's plan to sell the premises, where our bookshop is located, has been put aside. We would love to have our own CLC property so as to save financial resources in the long term, and also so that we do not have to live with the threat of our rented shop being sold. Please continue to pray about this property situation.

Wednesday - Burkina Faso:

Please pray for the acquisition and renewal of stock for the bookshop, and that we would see a consistent increase in sales.

Thursday - Burkina Faso:

Please also pray for the staff and their families, especially in the area of our health. Give thanks to the Lord for His protection over us for safety from the troubles in our country. Please pray with us for an end to terrorism.

Friday - Côte d'Ivoire:

We are grateful to the Lord who brings customers to our bookshops each day, despite the high cost of living and the nervousness due to the socio-political situation. Please join us in praying for the presidential elections to be held in October, 2020.

The Weekend - Kenya:

In the last half of 2020, we hope that our POD system will be revamped to be able to serve more people. We pray for wisdom to be able to purchase the right equipment to accomplish this.

Week 24 - June 8th to 14th

Monday - Kenya:

Please pray as we work on publishing Rev. Abraham Park's book, *The Covenant of the Torch*, in Swahili. We aim to launch it towards the end

of 2020. We also hope to run a programme, online and at a three-day conference, on healing based on Donna Partow's book, *This Isn't the Life I Signed Up For*, and Steve Pidd's book, *Healing and Freedom*.

Tuesday - Liberia:

We praise God that, despite the drying up of our funds due to low sales following a lack of stock of key titles, we still made it to the end of 2019. Please pray that God would show us the way forward for the ministry in 2020.

Wednesday - Mozambique:

We have almost run out of the 10,000 economy Bibles we had printed and are now ready for the next print run. We thank the Lord for those who made it possible for us to print the Bibles in the first place; their donations keep on giving as we perpetuate the project by setting aside funds from the sale of the Bibles. Pray with us that we will be able to have the Bibles printed and delivered to Mozambique before the end of the year.

Thursday - Mozambique:

We would like to open a small book outlet in the INTENA seminary in Nampula and we are thankful to have received a grant for this project. However, mainly due to logistics and bureaucracy, progress is slow. Please pray that we will soon have the paperwork we need and the right person to oversee the work.

Friday - Sierra Leone:

Please join us in prayer as we trust the Lord for more funding to invest in a 20-foot container-load of stock, especially Bibles of different versions. We also trust the Lord to expand our printing project, so we ask you to join us in prayer for God's leading to get the most appropriate machine that would fit our purpose in Africa.

The Weekend - Sierra Leone:

Let us pray for God's protection for all CLC staff and volunteers all over the globe as we encounter so many challenges, such as epidemics, afflictions and riots. Let us pray that God, in His infinite mercy, will build a covering over us and will protect us from the devil's schemes.



Prayer Focus: World Report

Week 25 - June 15th to 21st (Asia)

Monday - India:

Please pray about the need to relocate the bookshop in Vizag. We have been looking for somewhere suitable and affordable for some time now. We also have a long-term building project for our land in Clemens Road, Chennai, which we hope to start on soon.

Tuesday - Indonesia:

Please pray for the future leadership of CLC in Indonesia. A meeting to discuss a change in leadership with Romualdo Macinas, the CLC Asia Regional Director, and Lewis Codington, CLC IO, was due to take place in March but was postponed because of restrictions due to the coronavirus.

Wednesday - Indonesia:

Pray for wisdom from the Lord regarding future plans for the ministry. We are looking for publishing projects in partnership with other Christian organisations as we are currently doing with OM. We are also considering opening a book cafe to provide snacks and drinks to reach out to more people.

Thursday - Japan:

In order to continue, we need to consider and implement more efficient ways to operate. Please pray for God's help and guidance.

Friday - Korea:

Please pray for the CLC International Council meetings to be hosted by CLC in Korea. The conference, originally to be held in May, 2020, was postponed because of restrictions following the coronavirus pandemic. At the time of writing, the renewed date is likely to be in 2021. Please pray for wisdom and guidance in this matter as the situation is still a concern, and it affects everyone involved in so many ways.

The Weekend - Korea:

CLC Korea has an affiliated Bible School, the Covenant Theological Seminary, as part of the ministry. Please pray for the day-to-day operations of the seminary and for more new students to enroll.

Week 26 - June 22nd to 28th

Monday - Myanmar:

Please pray for CLC Myanmar as there is an urgent need for larger bookshop premises with an accessible warehouse facility. Work has begun on this project, but we ask for prayer for the finances to complete it - the fixtures and fittings and the general decoration. We hope to be able to open the new bookshop this year.

Tuesday - Pakistan:

Please pray for increased sales for the CLC ministry despite the uncertainties that they face. Pray, too, for the completion of the publishing process for *The Case for Faith* by Lee Strobel and the next book planned for publishing, *The Fourth Dimension* v2 by Dr Yonggi Cho.

Wednesday - Philippines:

We praise the Lord that we are able to supply two online bookstores. Our sales to both of these partners are growing significantly. Please pray with us as we seek to improve our own website.

Thursday - Philippines:

Please pray for our ongoing publishing operation. We have some significant publishing partners in the USA, who grant us the rights to publish their titles in the Philippines.

Friday - Thailand:

Please pray as we work on translating and publishing books, such as *The Tabernacle*, from the R-Center in South Korea, and best-selling Children's Bibles.

The Weekend - Thailand:

Please pray for our ongoing need to sell CLC's two properties - in Bangkok and the current bookshop location in Chiang Mai. We praise God for His faithfulness in all of this and for the support we receive from the Board of Directors.

Week 27 - June 29th to July 5th (Europe)

Monday - Bulgaria:

With all the disruption due to COVID-19, a large-scale event in our country that we were due to attend with a book table and a presentation of CLC was postponed. This event, Festival of



Prayer Focus: World Report

Opportunities: Come and See, is the first of its kind, and the aim is to present all the Christian ministries, organisations and church groups in the country. Please pray for this event, that it will still take place and be an encouragement for all who participate.

Tuesday - Belarus

For the CLC bookshop in Brest, it is our prayer that we would be a real lighthouse in the city. It is very important to remember that people constantly watch us and pay attention to us as Christians. We are praying that God will help us to give the best service to the customers as we serve Him in making His Word available on the high street.

Wednesday - Belarus:

It is our prayer in CLC Belarus that we would be able to adjust to the new technologies and try to keep up to date in this constantly, and quickly, changing world around us.

Thursday - Central Asia 1:

Please pray with us that the apartment will continue to be rented out. This is an important source of income to maintain the ministry financially. We hope to find ways to grow our sales. Pray that the Lord will open unexpected doors for us.

Friday - Central Asia 2:

Please pray for the ongoing plans to start publishing books. We would also value prayer for some 'large special orders' that would be a help towards us covering our costs.

The Weekend - Central Asia 2:

Please pray for more opportunities to take book tables to events, and we would also like to host more book fairs at schools. It would be good to have someone, called by God, who could take responsibility for finding and arranging this sort of activity.

Week 28 – July 6th to 12th

Monday - Cyprus:

We praise the Lord for His constant presence, blessings and the openings that we have had from Him to share the Gospel with various people. There is a need for these people to be

established in the faith and to get involved in church life so they can grow as Christians. Please pray that the Lord will encourage them and direct them in His ways.

Tuesday - Cyprus:

We are hoping that somehow we will be able to interest young people in the work in the bookshop and the various aspects involved in it. This could provide some help for us in the ministry now but also perhaps bring in potential future workers.

Wednesday - France:

We pray that unity with churches will continue to grow and allow a better visibility and activity in the cities and surrounding regions for the glory of God.

Thursday - France:

We would like to open a small book outlet. Please pray for our publishing projects for 2020: children's books and new books for adults, which include *Undaunted* and *The Resurrection and You* by Josh McDowell, and *Finally Alive* and *Astonished by God* by John Piper.

Friday - Germany

There are plans this year to remodel the street where our bookshop is located. This will mean months of disruption for everyone in the area, and there will be times when it will not be so easy for our customers to visit us. Please pray that the building work will not affect us too much.

The Weekend - Germany

Please pray for efforts to advertise our shop. We plan to distribute flyers inviting our neighbours to visit us. More urgently, we need a new website platform as our current provider finishes his service in July, 2020. Please pray for this transition period and an effective website for the future.

Week 29 – July 13th to 19th

Monday - Hungary:

Publishing slowly becomes a bigger operation, which requires more attention. We need wisdom in choosing the right titles for our market, but we also need more focus on marketing, contacting new retailers and finding new ways of distributing our books.



Prayer Focus: World Report

Tuesday - Hungary:

Our helper, Áron Vörös, leaves us to finish his studies in May. We are looking for someone to replace him who could be dedicated to marketing tasks while helping out in the Budapest shop when needed.

Wednesday - Italy

Pray for good health and healing from God for Samuele Di Ruocco, the former Director for CLC Italy, who is still rehabilitating, and for Ivano Cramerotti, who started suffering from a serious heart disease at the beginning of 2020.

Thursday - Netherlands:

Please pray for us as we look to share our website technology with churches, publishers and bookshops. One option is to provide affiliate links so that churches can partner with us to encourage our web sales. Another option is to build websites for publishers and bookshops unable to do so themselves.

Friday - Poland:

We need to find a new premises for storage of the books we are publishing. Please pray we find a suitable location at an affordable cost.

The Weekend - Poland:

Although many customers who visit the shop are Christians, please pray with us for those who do not know the Lord. We want to see people coming to faith when they come to the bookshop.

Week 30 – July 20th to 26th

Monday - Portugal:

Please pray as we look to expand our publishing work and export more books to other countries in Europe where there are people from Portugal and Brazil who would love to access books in their mother tongue.

Tuesday - Portugal:

Please pray for young people to volunteer in different aspects of the work. Pray for staff members, Carlos and Vinicyus, that they would accomplish all the goals for this year and serve well, without becoming too exhausted.

Wednesday - Romania:

Our publishing activities have suffered delays in the past year or two, although we have books prepared and waiting to be published. Please pray that God would help us to move forward with these important projects.

Thursday - Romania:

Please pray that we will become more effective in our work with the website and that we would manage it well. We need to maintain a level of sales, both in the bookshop and on the website, in order to continue and develop the various aspects of our ministry.

Friday - Russia:

Lord willing, we are planning a second seminar with R-Center and CLC Russia later this year. Please pray for plans and preparations if this is to take place.

The Weekend - Russia:

Sales continue to drop. Please pray with us for the Lord's blessing in internet sales, publishing and retail for 2020. Please pray for the Lord's continuing protection for the ministry.

Week 31 – July 27th to August 2nd

Monday - Spain:

We are always looking for opportunities to facilitate seminars, book presentations and hold special events. We want to make our ministry known as more than just a bookshop. Please pray for God's guidance in this.

Tuesday - Spain:

Please pray for growth in sales, both in the bookshops and online. Please pray, too, for new opportunities for the distribution of the *Jesus for Everyone* Bibles that we have available.

Wednesday - Switzerland:

Pray for growth and expansion of the CLC work in Switzerland, despite not having a bookshop presence anymore.

Thursday - Switzerland:

Pray for Carlo Ciafani as he now works part-time with CLC, maintaining web sales and looking for opportunities to distribute Bibles and books through phone orders and book tables.



Prayer Focus: World Report

Friday - United Kingdom:

Praise God for the opportunities to supply our resources through secular channels as never before. Many of these books and Bibles will end up in the hands of people with whom we have no direct contact.

The Weekend - United Kingdom:

Please pray for all the team members involved in building and supporting our websites. A huge amount of work is involved in data entry, building websites, connecting IT systems, digital marketing and customer service. The goal is to offer a seamless system that provides each customer with what they are looking for.

Week 32 – August 3rd to 9th (Latin America)

Monday - Bolivia:

Please join Gamaliel and Marlene in giving thanks to the Lord for all the help and provision they have received during times of serious difficulties in keeping the ministry going. They know that seeds have been planted that will bear future fruit and are grateful to all those who have helped and supported them.

Tuesday - Bolivia:

For the first few months of this year, Gamaliel and Marlene Padilla have been concentrating on selling as much stock as possible since vacating the rented shop premises and moving to a base further out of the city. They are also looking at ways that would make the ministry more viable in the future. Please pray for the Padillas and others involved in making decisions that God would clearly guide them in this.

Wednesday - Chile

Please pray for the project CLC Chile has each year to promote a particular book title. This year the CLC Colombia publication, *Getting Closer to God* by Erwin Lutzer, is being highlighted as their book of the year.

Thursday - Chile:

Following the political and social unrest and uncertainty in 2019, please pray for resolutions to the problems and peace for Chile. Pray, too, that Christian ministries, including CLC, will continue to share the Gospel and make a difference in the country to God's glory.

Friday - Colombia:

Pray for the publication we are working on of the book *Why Pro-Life?* by Randy Alcorn. It is a very necessary resource in these times in Latin America.

The Weekend - Colombia:

Please pray for wisdom as we continue our ministry work in Colombia that we would make a real impact, to God's glory, in the country.

Week 33 – August 10th to 16th

Monday - Ecuador:

We praise and thank the Lord that we found a suitable place for our wholesale distribution work in Guayaquil. It has a reasonable rent and is located just two blocks away from the bookshop. The Lord has also provided us with the ideal staff to attend to the work there.

Tuesday - Ecuador:

One of our prayers in 2020 is that we would find favour with a bank or another financial institution to grant us a loan towards the construction of our own building in Guayaquil.

Wednesday - Mexico:

Pray for plans this year that include more regular involvement in book fairs around the country, working with Christian colleges and arranging at least six mobile routes to reach parts of northern Mexico.

Thursday - Mexico:

Pray with us for the growth and strengthening of our ministry during 2020 so that every member of the team can transmit the mission of CLC to our customers and be a channel of blessing to the people of Mexico.

Friday - Panamá:

Please pray about the current legal status of CLC Panamá that functions as a limited company. We would like to change the status to an NGO or a Social Foundation. This would mean lower taxes for CLC, allowing us to reinvest in the ministry. This status would more accurately define our organisation.

The Weekend - Panamá:

Please pray for the ongoing need we have to purchase a property for our wholesale department and offices.



Prayer Focus: World Report

Week 34 – August 17th to 23rd

Monday - Peru:

Please pray for the ongoing work of setting up the ministry in Peru. Pray for the economic situation here and the ability to pay staff and stock, especially with the shop closures early in the year due to the Covid-19 virus.

Tuesday - Peru:

Pray for the process of implementing the website for CLC Peru. We hope that the training and implementation will be done well and as soon as possible.

Wednesday - Uruguay:

Please pray for the resources needed to refurbish the main bookshop in Montevideo to update the fixtures and fittings and to improve customer service.

Thursday - Uruguay:

We are grateful for the work done by the mobile work into the interior of the country, which accounts for 25% of CLC Uruguay's annual sales. Pray for all the churches and church members who help us with the distribution of books and Bibles in their towns and cities.

Friday - Venezuela:

For praise: We give thanks to God for His faithfulness, sustaining us during more than three years of economic limitations. He has helped us, sending support from various sources via the CLC International Office, to pay our staff and to cover the costs of books together with their importation into the country.

The Weekend - Venezuela:

For prayer: Please pray that God would help us to operate despite the continued and increasing daily challenges with basic services, such as electricity and internet. These services fail regularly and for long periods, and this failure affects the whole country. We trust that at some point these services will return to normal.

Week 35 – August 24th to 30th (North America & Caribbean)

Monday - Antigua:

Please pray for an increase in sales and a faster turnover. Pray, too, for our nation. The

coronavirus pandemic will have an impact on tourism, the main industry on the island, and a decline in visitors would eventually affect our sales too.

Tuesday - Barbados:

Please pray that we would be able to cope with the after-effects of the lockdown and ongoing issues due to the coronavirus pandemic. This is important both for the CLC ministry and for Barbados as the island's economy is very dependent on tourism. Praise the Lord for His protection over the staff and property during the time of lockdown.

Wednesday - Canada:

Since mid-2019, we have been working on the issue of transforming our distribution and establishing 'CLC Diffusion.' Then, in February 2020, the largest distributor of Christian books in Quebec (where CLC is based) asked us to consider taking over their work. This is a huge opportunity but also a challenge with little margin for error. The global pandemic will not make it any easier to set up this new infrastructure. Please pray for wisdom and guidance from the Lord.

Thursday - Dominica:

Please pray for financial stability for the ministry, especially regarding the rent situation and the need to relocate to a more affordable shop property. Even during the recent lockdown, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the rent needed to be paid, which was an additional pressure for the team.

Friday - Trinidad & Tobago

Please pray as we look for new strategies to get our stock out. We are at the lowest point, in terms of finance, that we have been in CLC Trinidad and Tobago's history. We are actively engaging with every single person that enters the bookstore.

The Weekend - United States:

Pray for good new titles to publish. We are working on several new publishing projects, including a new "Faith Essentials" series of classic books. Pray, too, for God's blessing on our new marketing and advertising efforts.

I want to
support the
ministry of CLC

4 Ways to Give:

Please make cheques payable to:
CLC International (UK)

Regular monthly giving:
BACS Donation

For a single gift payment use:
Debit / Credit Card Donation
Give online securely via the Stewardship website:
my.give.net/clcuksupport

giftaid DECLARATION FORM Make every £1 gift(s) go 25p further!

Boost your donation by 25p of *Gift Aid* for every £1 you donate.
Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the
current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a
current UK taxpayer.

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £..... to *CLC International (UK)*.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less income
tax and/or Capital Gains tax in a tax year than the amount of
Gift Aid claimed on all of my donations in that tax year, it is my
responsibility to pay any difference.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTCODE: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

SIGNATURE (space above)

DATE:

Please use my gift:

- ☐ Where needed most
☐ Bible Projects
☐ Towards this CLC Project: (write below)

CLC International (UK)

Unit 5, Glendale Avenue, Sandycroft Industrial
Estate, Sandycroft, Deeside CH5 2QP

A SINGLE GIFT OF: £ _____ VISA / MASTERCARD / MAESTRO
(CIRCLE ONE)

CARD NUMBER: _____

MAESTRO ISSUE #: _____ SECURITY CODE: _____

ISSUE DATE: ____/____/____ EXPIRY DATE: ____/____/____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: ____/____/____

FOR REGULAR GIVING:

BANK NAME: _____

ACCOUNT HOLDER: _____

ACCOUNT NUMBER: _____

SORT CODE: _____

BANK ADDRESS: _____

POSTCODE: _____

PLEASE DEDUCT (amount in words):

FROM MY ACCOUNT ON (date): ____/____/____

AND THEN EACH (circle one): MONTH / QUARTER / YEAR
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

This standing order REPLACES / DOES NOT REPLACE (circle one)
an existing standing order to CLC International (UK)

PAY THIS SUM TO: CLC INTERNATIONAL (UK)
A/C 71184539
SORT CODE 40-05-03

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: ____/____/____

FOR BANK USE ONLY: Paying bank please ensure that all back-
dated payments are made and the following reference number
is quoted with all payments:

Thank you for your gift!

Unit 14, The Academy, Belmont St.
ABERDEEN, AB10 1LB
Tel: 01224 641 620
aberdeen@clcbookshops.com

7 Carrs Lane (Church Centre)
BIRMINGHAM, B4 7SX
Tel: 0121 643 2991
birmingham@clcbookshops.com

St. John's Church, Church Street
BLACKPOOL, FY1 1BP
Tel: 01253 624 160
blackpool@clcbookshops.com

23 Castle Street
INVERNESS, IV2 3EP
Tel: 01463 238 876
inverness@clcbookshops.com

2 Church Street
SHEFFIELD, S1 2GN
Tel: 0114 272 4663
sheffield@clcbookshops.com

Or shop online at:
clcbookshops.com



*At the time of
publication
ALL shops are
closed due
to Covid-19.
Please call
the bookshop
before
visiting. We
hope to see
you soon.
Bookshops
are accepting
phone orders,
and the
website is
open to serve
you.*

CLC International

Mission Site: clcinternational.org

CLC International Office (UK):

291 Abbeydale Road,
Sheffield, S7 1FJ

UK Mission Site: clc.org.uk

UK Online Shop: clcbookshops.com

Personnel Enquiries:

personnel@clcbookshops.com

UK Headquarters & Finance Office:

Unit 5, Glendale Avenue,
Sandycroft Industrial Estate,
Sandycroft, Deeside CH5 2QP
Email: gerald.sidery@clc.org.uk

For Overseas Opportunities:

office@clcinternational.org

To Subscribe: clcw@clcbookshops.com

CLC International (UK) is registered as a charity in
England & Wales (1015793) and in Scotland (SC037939)

CLC International Office & USA Headquarters:

701 Pennsylvania Avenue, P.O. Box 1449
Fort Washington, PA 19034

USA Mission Site: clcusa.org

USA Online Shop: multilanguage.com

Inquiries: info@clcusa.org

Donations: clcusa.org/give

For Overseas Opportunities:

missions@clcusa.org

To Subscribe: clcw@clcusa.org

CLC Ministries International is registered as a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization in the United States and as such can accept charitable donations and provide tax deductible receipts