



# Living for Jesus in Malta

Issue #3. November 2013

## News Update

This is our first newsletter since making the move from Wisbech to St Paul's Bay in Malta so we wanted to bring you up to date with our situation, moving and our settling in.

Our journey here was quite an eventful one. We had purposed to travel to Stansted Airport and spend the night there as our flight out to Malta was very early in the morning on Friday 4th October. In theory this was a good plan but the practicalities of it were far from our expectations. The train got us to the airport at about 11pm and it soon became apparent that everyone else had the same idea and there was no place to sit yet alone sleep. On top of this we also had four large suitcases for the hold and a piece of hand luggage each that needed looking after. Eventually we decided the only thing we could do was to lay down on the cold floor and try to get a few hours kip.

Just after 4am those of us that were asleep were woken up by an airport official who moved us on like we were some unwanted vagrants sleeping in a doorway, to go and check-in for the flight - we were eagerly waiting for this moment as this meant we could eventually lose the cases and get something to eat. After a hearty breakfast we soon boarded the plane and were in the air bound for Malta.

Our apartment is in a built up part of St Paul's Bay above an Indian restaurant but we enjoy a view of the sea and the surrounding hills from the roof terrace. Although the area is built up and busy, the serenity of the bay is only a three to five minute walk away. We have rented this apartment for six months, after this we hope to buy a place of our own. Compared to the UK the rents are slightly lower but the cost of living, electricity and food is much more expensive. We are able to find some of the well known brands from the UK in the shops but these are very expensive. Most food items that are not produced locally are imported from Italy and so all the labels tend to be in Italian which makes shopping much more challenging. The other day Peter went out for some crême fraîche and came home to find he had actually bought cottage cheese! He has come to the conclusion that next time he will take his Italian dictionary with him.

Our apartment is beginning to feel a lot more like home as our furniture and personal goods arrived here two weeks after we did. As our apartment is furnished a lot of our larger things have been put in storage until we get our own place. This was an additional expense we had not budgeted for, but we are glad to have our little effects that make a place a home.



Pastor Vince baptising in the sea at Bugibba

We have settled in to the Full Gospel Praise Centre where Peter preached his first message on 3rd November. The church had a baptismal service in the sea on our second weekend and it was a real joy to see so many onlookers watching what was happening. The beach was packed with people sun-bathing and those that were swimming got out of the sea as Pastor Vince and the others stepped down into the water.

Now that we have settled in to church life here we are expecting to be a little more busy. A mission to the neighbouring island of Gozo is being planned for later this month and another baptismal.

November generally brings into the church an influx of British couples arriving to winter in Malta in an attempt to escape the cold weather back home. Some will be here perhaps a month or two until after Christmas, some may even stay on as late as Easter.

## Why do you talk about your lack? Who am I?

While reading the Bible the other day the Lord spoke to me asking me this question. In Matthew 16.6-8 He had told His disciples to beware of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Saducees, but completely misunderstanding they began to talk about their lack of bread. I was challenged how many times when God asks us to do something or lays a thing on our heart, do we begin to talk about what we don't have - our lack of time, ability, money, health rather than what we do have, or

who our God is. A little while later He asks the same group of disciples an important question, "who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16.15)

Rather than spending all that time talking about what we don't have, it is far better to be talking about who our God is. He is El-Shaddai, He is our Provider, Deliverer, Saviour, Sanctifier, Healer. He is the One who goes before us to drive out our enemies.

I'm not saying that we don't acknowledge the areas where we lack or have a deficiency but rather that our focus is on the One who is able.

We may not have good health but we know Jehovah Rapha, the Lord our healer. We may not have a natural ability to accomplish a task but we have the mind of Christ to give us the know-how and the Holy Spirit to give us the strength and anointing to fulfil the task

We may not have the money to do something but we have the Lord who is our Provider. He owns all the silver and all the gold, and has a thousand ways to get it to us. The disciples hadn't taken bread with them, had they already forgotten who Jesus was and what He could do? - He had just fed a large multitude with a small amount of bread.

Peter confessed before Jesus 'You are the Christ'. It is time to open your mouth and start talking to the areas of lack in your life and tell them who your God is, and not the other way around.

God bless you all,

Peter, Jayne, Joanna & Debbie

## Family Matters in brief

Jo has found herself a football team to play for in the nearby town of Mgarr. She is also coaching young boys to play at Mellieħa. They are hoping to put together a girls team soon that she can coach too. We celebrated her 25th birthday on 2nd November with a really nice meal out at a local Indian restaurant which is owned by one of the members from the church.

Both Jo and Debbie are looking for work and have applied for several jobs, please pray that by the time we write again they will both be gainfully employed.

Peter has been teaching English at a local language school but only as a relief teacher on a temporary basis and work is not guaranteed particularly through the winter months.



Celebrating Jo's 25th birthday with a meal at Chilli's Indian restaurant

## PLEASE PRAY FOR US

- Pray that God will supply all our necessary living expenses here in Malta.
- Pray that Joanna & Debbie find suitable work; as Malta depends on tourism, work is not easy to find at this time of the year. Peter may also need work in these initial months until we become established.
- Pray that God will lead and direct us concerning ministry and our involvement in the church.
- We need a car to get around. Public transport is ok at times but not reliable. The buses do not run when and where we need to go.

Some of you have asked how you can support us with a financial gift. The easiest ways to get gifts to us are:

- Direct to our UK bank account either over the counter or by telephone/internet banking.

### HSBC Bank

Sort code: 40-47-04

Account: 51433210

Account name: P D Warren

- Through our website [www.voice-faith.com](http://www.voice-faith.com) Follow the link to 'sowing into the ministry' where you will see a donation button. By using this facility your gift can be made by debit /credit card or online Paypal account.



## CONNECT WITH US - We would love to hear from you!



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