

BTBAB News

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The New BTBAB Base

by Femi & Maria Oni

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Dear Friends and partners, we are delighted to say that the new BTBAB base is coming together quite well, although not without some challenges. We have now been able to rent two cottages adjoining each other: first *Aldaniti* cottage, and most recently, *Hunters Gate* cottage.

Aldaniti cottage, an open-plan 3-bedroom cottage, is now fully furnished. The rooms are large and so the cottage is now the official residential training facility for all our teams. We have already hosted two groups at the facility; the core team for the 2018 Mission trip to India, as well as the delegates for the Disciplers course. *Hunters Gate* cottage is a 2-bedroom facility literally next door to *Aldaniti*. It is now undergoing the same transformation as the first one and will be ready in time to host teams from the spring. This cottage is primarily for hosting our workers.

Both cottages are perched on a hill on the grounds of Mount Pleasant Farm - a working farm - located at the entrance to the village of Childswickham in Worcestershire. The views from the cottage during the recent snowfall were stunning (see cover photo).

As a family, we moved here 5 months ago to set up the base for BTBAB. Initially we had hoped to purchase a property (instead of renting one) but that process has been extremely hard. This has not just been due to limited funds but also due to fierce demonic opposition from the kingdom of darkness operating locally. We are grateful for those partners who were able to join us in a prayer walk around the village in November. Since then, the activities against us of the witches in the village have been completely dismantled and the Lord has opened the heavens

on not just BTBAB, but also on us as a family. Worship has taken off (literally) since Lorraine Bell led worship at the village church that weekend in November – people are still talking about it. The powers of darkness have been broken and God has begun to show us that BTBAB is here to stay!

As an organisation, we are gaining support from local Christians but also from non-Christians in the village. The only church in the village has almost doubled in number since our arrival and there is now a thriving home group that meet on the premises of BTBAB – the first in almost 50 years! The Disciplers course has also been hugely successful in the local community and we have run it twice, attracting people from three local churches in adjoining villages.

Pioneering a base has been hugely challenging for us as a family, especially with two young children. But we have found a profound pleasure here in serving God, and in making way for a BTBAB presence.

We are now developing a working document for the centre and on course to developing a base staff who will run the centre without much interference from us from 2019. Our prayer is that an international board of Trustees will be formed in 2019 who will be able to help guide the organisation into acquiring a more long-term base, as well as provide logistical advice that will grow BTBAB for many more years to come.

We thank you for your prayers and hope you can join us this year for the BTBAB retreat which will be held on the premises here in the village. We continue to value your prayers, especially for more to join us as we advance His kingdom here in Jesus name!

Regather
& Release

Our 5yrs strategy 2017-22

- Develop a base staff
- Bring discipleship back to the forefront of our work ✓
- More mission leaders
- Purchase a vehicle for BTBAB ✓
- Form an international board of Trustees
- Secure BTBAB a Property

General Ministry & Mission Update

by Esther Price

Mission Trips 2018

We have two mission trips planned for 2018. Shirley Cooper (aci@btbab.org) will be leading a team to India from 16th - 30th June and Sue Arrowsmith (healthinessltd@hotmail.co.uk) will be leading a team to the Philippines from 21st July—4th August. The first training weekend for both trips is from 2nd – 4th March. The second training weekend for India is from 4th—6th May & Philippines 25th—27th May.

BTBAB Annual Retreat 2018

Next year's retreat will be held at the new BTBAB house in Worcestershire from 24th – 26th August. We will be sharing the updates from 2017-2018 along with times of worship, prayer and multi-media presentations. The cost will be £130 per person and it will be held at Aldaniti Cottage, Mount Pleasant Farm, Hinton Road, Childswickham, Broadway, Worcs, WR12 7HZ. For more information or to book your place, please email Esther at info@btbab.org or call her on 07717 694489.

Prayer & Praise

The next prayer and praise weekend will be from 23rd – 25th March. To register your interest please email Chantal at toolbox@btbab.org

Disciplers Course

This course equips you with tools to help disciple fellow Christians. If you have never attended this course and would like more information or would like to register your place, please go to www.disciplersworkshop.com. The next course is from 7th – 10th June.

Next Prayer Day

The next prayer day is on 21st March. If you have any prophetic words, please pass them onto Yvonne at prayer@btbab.org.



Aldaniti Cottage—location of next BTBAB Retreat in 2018

Getting Involved



*Freely you have received, freely give
(Mt 10: 8)*

If you'd like to get involved, simply drop us an email to info@btbab.org and let us know if you would like to:

- ◆ **Be a Partner**
- ◆ **Go on Short-term Mission Trip**
- ◆ **Support our OCT projects overseas**
- ◆ **Sponsor an ACI recipient for as little as £10 monthly**
- ◆ **Be part of another person's journey of faith by going on the Discipler's course**
- ◆ **Give directly to missionaries we support**

If you are happy to inform us please let us know if this will be monthly or a lump sum, and the amount. Alternatively you can make cheques to *Blessed To Be A Blessing* (or BTBAB) Or perhaps you simply want to give anonymously, then please contact us for our bank details.

*BTBAB, otherwise known as **Blessed To Be A Blessing**, is a mission initiative established in 1997 as a practical demonstration of God's love to the needs of the poor & underprivileged in the developing world.*

We have invested in almost 20 nations in the world and have already facilitated/sent 25 mission teams to some of the poorest countries in the world. By God's grace (expressed through the generosity of His people), over £100,000 has been invested so far.

We are a faith-based organisation - in other words, we depend on God to provide for our work through prayers and generous donations of friends and partners.

BTBAB is run by a Board of Directors, at operational level (supported by Coordinators) and accountable to a Board of Trustees. Though an inter-denominational initiative, BTBAB values the importance of church-based ministry and therefore draws from the life of the local church, and has sent teams representing over 60 churches.

*Aldaniti Cottage
Mount Pleasant Farm
Hinton Road
Childswickham
BROADWAY
WR12 7HZ*

**Email: info@btbab.org
www.btbab.org**

Redeeming the Land – The Fields are ready for Harvest

by Tom Griffin

Taking on a mission of the Lord can be fraught with much difficulty as well as blessings. God never promised us that it would be easy, but he did promise us that He would be with us to guide us and to lead us by His Holy Spirit. Redeeming the Land has been a blessing to be part of and we are thankful for what we see happening in the 5 hectares of land, in the remote village of Mubuga in the heart of Africa.



The first crop of maize

The first crop of maize has been a great success. Villagers are very pleased with what looks like a very healthy crop. Praise God for His faithfulness! This is a reason to celebrate.... not just for the wonderful crop which is about to be harvested but also for the fact that people from the various ethnic backgrounds have come together to till the land and make it productive; a people that have known strife, conflict and bloodshed in the recent and distant past. We have literally seen the outworking of the scripture, “they will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks”, weapons of war turned into weapons of reconciliation and blessings.

However, the enemy doesn’t rest easy. While the “land is being redeemed” in more ways than one, the enemy will try to hijack the work of the Lord. Peniel, the Project Co-

ordinator in Burundi, is doing a sterling job in managing the project. God has blessed him with wisdom and a heart to see this community succeed. There will always be people who will oppose the work of God, often from the unlikely sources. It is to be expected. I am reminded of Nehemiah chapter 4, where we see the temple being rebuilt in Jerusalem at the end of the Babylonian exile. Sanballat vehemently opposed the work but Nehemiah encouraged the people by saying: “*Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes*”. Of course our battle is not against flesh and blood but it is a spiritual battle, waging war against forces of darkness.

Apart from farming the land, those who are involved also have the opportunity to hear the gospel, pray and build a strong spiritual foundation in their lives. People who have been farming the land have given their lives to Jesus Christ so you can imagine how the enemy would tremble to see the Kingdom of God advancing in territory where he has such a hold in the past. Lives are being transformed and we continue to pray that this little village of Muguba will have an open heaven above it and God’s Glory will be revealed in the nation of Burundi.



Peniel the OCT project manager surveying the crops

Ana Claudia Initiative (ACI) Update

by Shirley Cooper

We are still standing in faith that a strong group of supporters will be built for the ACI ministry. If we can build up the support base for ACI it would enable us to do so much more. Please pray for both our students in Asia that they prosper in their studies and that they succeed with their dreams.

ACI gives people an opportunity to fulfil the dream of their heart and learn to be effective in their world. If you would like us to come and share about the ACI in your church then we are very open to invitations. Please contact me on aci@btbab.org

Wolves in the Church: Changing from Flick-switch to Dimmer-light switch

by Femi Oni

WFTR Column

Water From The Rock is an emerging vision being established by Femi & Cidinha (Maria) Oni.

Though separate from the work of BTBAB, we work in collaboration with BTBAB. We facilitate advance trips to nations BTBAB eventually sends teams to, but also focus on supporting believers in the underground church.

For more information, contact Cidinha directly: cidinha.oni@btbab.org



WFTR

Many years ago, we had light switches on the wall that simply TURNED-ON to give us light, or OFF to drive us into complete darkness. But today, technology has given us something rather different – the dimmer-switch! In many ways it is good technology. But in other ways, when you think about it spiritually, it sends a rather chilling message – because the dimmer light means we choose how much light we let



in, and often may mean we become so used to less light that we become increasingly comfortable in “dim light” (spiritually speaking). In our world today, we are trying to blur the line between light and darkness...but what is sad is that the church is slowly buying into the deception! The bible has a few things to say about light, and here is one of them in Jn 3: 19-21: *“And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God”*

In our effort to be “relevant to the world” (something Jesus never taught us to do, see Jn 15: 18-25), we have become like the world. We turn worship into entertainment, we use less biblical words because they are too strong for the world to understand, and in the process of seeking equality we turn women into men because we just can’t ac-

cept that God made them different from men. Along with this, we have stunted boys from transitioning into men. We water down the gospel so that it can be easier for people to come in through the back door, we rearrange our church programmes so that sinners can feel comfortable in church and remain in their sin and we talk about the need to be friends with the world at the cost of our friendship with our own brethren. Sometimes we walk into church and it feels like an Ed Sheeran concert, we write and sing songs about “God” but we refuse to mention His name because we think people may not respond. We preach microwave Christianity (i.e. spoon-feeding people “processed spiritual food”), we call darkness “grey” so that people whom we love don’t feel compelled to pursue deliverance, and so on. This is the flip-side of the dimmer-light switch generation.

We don’t know who we are anymore – because we have allowed darkness to creep into our lives, our churches, our schools and our homes. Now the world determines what morality is. Jesus said we are to be salt and light...but we are losing our saltiness and our desire to be light. Because we no longer know how to hear God, we teach that God no longer speaks the way He does and effectively sold a lie to this generation; that our inner soul is where we find Him and that the absence of human-peace is the absence of God.

All these things didn’t happen overnight: it happened gradually...just like the dimming down of light. They were people who sold the dimmer-switch to us. Jesus called them wolves (Mt 10: 16; Act 20: 29) - and they are taking over our churches, violating our children of the voice of conscience and selling the gospel of compromise to the world...unless we return to the Light:

“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And this light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (Jn 1: 4-5)

When people met Jesus, they were convicted of their sin, TURNED away from darkness and ran into the light!