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During the year, we worked – either directly or by supporting others - in the UK and in many other countries. More than 260 individuals in about 30 countries, supported by us, committed themselves to Jesus Christ during the year, many of them through baptism. A number of these were refugees and asylum seekers, some in the UK and others in countries such as Turkey, Germany, Israel and Italy. Others still live in countries where as Christians they are liable to persecution, such as Iran and Afghanistan. Indeed we know of at least 180 individuals who have been baptised in those two countries alone as a result of our work. Online support in particular remains very important to these folk, though this has become increasingly difficult as the local authorities have blocked direct internet access to our (and many other) websites and apps. This forces people to use Virtual Private Networks, which are unfamiliar to many and mean that online meetings on platforms such as WhatsApp or Zoom are very challenging owing to the inevitable reduced bandwidth.

Our *Bible Companion* app continues to be a crucial tool and well-used tool in our work. The app, which is cost- and advertisement-free, comprises a full Bible text including audio; deeper commentary on every verse; basic devotionals, an audio and a youth message on every chapter; a daily sermon and thought for the day, a reading planner; a *Bible Basics* study course; and powerful search functionality. We believe that this app offers more features and resources than any other free Bible app. It is available on both Android and Apple, in English, Russian, Farsi, French, Spanish and Ukrainian. The number of new downloads of the app remains high, and the length of usage is increasing - a welcome sign that it is being retained on devices and used frequently and at length by people all over the world, who clearly find it helpful.

We were pleased that this work has been noticed in various places, including by Premier Christian Radio – the UK's largest Christian radio station – which devoted a 15 minute prime time slot to the Church in a Pub in September.

Alongside the development of the app, we have continued to run our 'Virtual Church' (www.virtualchurch.cc) which is a gateway to both pastoral support and to regular online communion services along with Q&A sessions and talks. Carelinks also has a well-used YouTube channel, with more than a million views over the year.

Last year's new development in the borough of Croydon in south London has been a great success. It is in two main parts. At the weekly 'Church in a Pub.' those

attending are given lunch as well as being able to enjoy a low-key Bible talk. And at the 'Croydon Lunchtime Church,' a similar approach is taken from Monday to Wednesday each week at a town-centre venue. Average attendance is about 30 per session and many of those coming have committed themselves to Jesus Christ through baptism as a result of the work. A considerable number of those attending are homeless or otherwise very challenged in life, so the meals are much appreciated, as is other material help such as clothing. What is more, a strong sense of community and mutual support has developed as a result.

We are glad to have been able to deliver some direct aid to those in need overseas, such as much-needed firewood to very poor households, and practical support of various kinds to earthquake survivors in Turkey and those seriously affected by the war in Ukraine.