

# Making Disciples International (UK)

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Dear Friends

***Who is (He then) this King of glory? The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of glory (who rules over all creation with His heavenly armies). Psalm 24:10***

In a season of rules and restraints when we have found out so much about our weaknesses, how much have we learned of the LORD? Perhaps God has allowed this pandemic to ask of all, “*Who is (He then) this King of glory?*” Do we know who He is, have we found out for real? “***He is the Lord of hosts who rules over all creation with His heavenly armies***”.

The perfect response to such an amazing revelation is ***Psalm 25:1-2: Unto You, O LORD, do I bring my life. O my God, in You I (have unwavering) trust (and I rely on You with steadfast confidence). Do not let me be ashamed or my hope in you be disappointed; do not let my enemies triumph over me.***

The choice is always ours as to where we focus attention (meditate). Is it on our prowess and abilities to “see it through” or “tough it out”? We must never allow Satan to veil or distort the truth that God is the Lord of hosts, ruler over all creation (including this pandemic) with the armies of heaven. Daily, remind yourself and declare to the principalities and powers (***Ephesians 6:12***) that the Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory with all of creation under His control, and the hosts of angels are helping Him.

## **How to function from home**

We continue to ask the Lord how to be appropriate in our care of missionaries during the lockdown. It is obvious really - we continue doing what we have done for 30 years, supporting, comforting and encouraging working and retired workers in the USA, Israel, Holland, South Africa and the UK – except, for now, it is through video calls, email and texts. The pandemic has made it very tough on the mission field; never has availability and Biblical counsel been more needed. The key to God’s encouragement is not just a pat on the back to stoke an ego, it is being filled with the Holy Spirit and waiting upon the Lord each day, hearing His voice and leading from the Word, and sharing the life of that Word as He prompts. In this season, we have strongly experienced our Father’s joy of sowing a “Word in season”. What a privilege to be a vessel of His wisdom and encouragement.

Since our last news, your giving has also enabled us to send timely and significant financial and medical gifts to workers in Israel, the UK and South Africa. Three workers moved house and needed help setting up a new home – stocking the food cupboard, a new bed, dishes, a closet, washing machine, drier and installing an internet connection. Others have needed a financial top-up to help with groceries where financial support waned from home churches. We have reflected this week on ***Romans 12:10-13 “Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honour preferring one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in***

***spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfast in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints .....***” It is a joy to give and to know that you, with us, still play an important role in God’s Great Commission.

Time at home has also opened a door for us to study the Word in greater depth. We have completed three 25 week studies online with Dr Chuck Missler on the books of Revelation, Genesis and Romans. It has been a feast and it certainly has sharpened belief and realigned doctrine. Our minds have been renewed. We hold a strong conviction that this is the time to wake up, clean up and prepare for the rapture (1 Thess 4:17). The imminence of heaven’s trumpet sounding rallies us to help believers prepare.

### **New video series to accompany Sow What?**

In response, Jan has been revisiting her discipleship book, Sow What? – a transformative study based upon the parable of the sower – Mark 4, available from Amazon. Knowing that most are not self-starters in terms of Bible study, she has embarked on recording 11 teaching videos, each one enhancing the subject of a particular chapter of Sow What? It can be used as a personal study, but it will have more impact as a shared study for 2 to 5 people, or indeed in a homegroup situation. The aim is spiritual transformation – getting ourselves prepared for the Lord. Each video is 25 minutes (+/-) of teaching, illustration and instruction, encouraging personal response and engagement with Jesus. When used alongside the relevant chapter the group can discuss its application and consider the set questions, meditate on the set Scripture and pray. It has the potential to be a powerful tool for spiritual development. Chapter 8 (Rocks galore) has just been recorded and edited, so there are three more to go. Once completed, Jan will make the video series available online to be used alongside the book. It has been quite an undertaking but one that she has enjoyed – so much so that a new series is already being spoken of on the names of God. Learning who God in His nature and character settles down every turbulent thought of the troubles of today and what the future holds. Please pray for Jan in these discipleship ventures.

### **Maritha Esterhuizen’s care**

Thank you so much for helping us with Maritha’s care as she battles cancer. Following radiotherapy, she engaged with the challenge of chemotherapy. After 6 cycles (2 more ahead – 9 weeks) the news is encouraging. The large lump reduced considerably and the cancer markers have been moving steadily down.



Mintie and Maritha 2015 in England

It started at 43.9 and just 10 days ago it was 11.

Maritha says that the Oncologist is amazed – and she continues to testify to him of God’s ability, grace and provision. He knows she is a missionary who trust the Lord for everything (including his fees), so the kindness of God and the generosity of Christian friends blows his mind. He even gave her a discount! The treatment is extremely hard on the body – especially the feet which are raw and swollen, and her energy levels come and go but, on the whole, she says

she is doing well. *Praise the Lord!* She describes the experience as traumas and triumphs!

This morning Maritha says, ***“Thank you to everyone who contributed and still do. So far all the costs have been more than covered for personal living and medical expenses. Each cycle costs R6000 and after my next 2 cycles of chemo, I will have to do scans again to see what the growths look like on the inside. We***

***will also then look at the maintenance program to keep the cancer cells from growing again. This will probably mean a 3 weekly injection at a cost of just over R5000. In the natural these costs on top of living expenses are impossible – but when I look up to my Father all concern vanishes. Back in 1992 when I sought the Lord about quitting teaching and embarking on a road of serving Him full time, the Lord gave me Matthew 6:32-33 “Your Father in heaven knows what you need! Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you”. Since that first step of faith in 1992, God has been more than faithful to this promise and He has accomplished it all through His faithful people. Thank you so much for your loving care and concern, prayer and financial support! I experience something special about God’s love every day. As you have sown God promises an increased harvest of righteousness. Bless you and much love, Maritha”.***

We still need financial support for Maritha this year (2021) – so as you give into the MDI account we will send it over to her in South Africa. All the means of donating are on our website: [www.makingdisciples.co.uk](http://www.makingdisciples.co.uk). If you are in the UK you are welcome to send a cheque payable: “Maritha Esterhuizen” and we will deposit it into her UK Lloyds bank account. Like the four friends who brought the needy and helpless paralytic to Jesus (Mark 2: 1-12), we continue to carry Maritha, and the many more, to Jesus, through the ministry of Making Disciples International (UK).

#### **Personal news**

We are both keeping remarkably well. Mintie feels she has lost some ground in terms of physical strength. Her back is free of the sciatic pain but remains weak and vulnerable. Standing for any length of time and walking remain a challenge. An answer to prayer has been that in the future when help is needed, she will be able to see the German doctor who successfully treated her back, through our amazing UK National Health Service. Friends gathered to pay for her treatment last Autumn and now God has made provision for Mintie into the future. Praise the Lord! Jan is also doing well. Extremely high blood pressure was a problem for quite a while and whilst it has taken time to find a suitable BP tablet that her body can tolerate, all that has now settled down. Apart from ministry, Jan enjoys developing the small vegetable allotment in the garden to provide food for our table. Who would have thought....?

We pray for you and trust the Lord for your safety and wellbeing. We are drawn into prayer by the great needs of so many. Let’s rejoice together - God, His Word and the Holy Spirit can never be locked down! As restrictions come new expressions of the love and power of God will always explode beyond any manmade boundaries.

We send you our warmest greetings and love,

Jan and Mintie