

## Making Disciples International (UK) - [www.makingdisciples.co.uk](http://www.makingdisciples.co.uk)

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Our dear Praying Friends,

Our year has ended in a flourish of activity. In November welcomed two missionaries from different agencies into our home for debriefing. Having served the Lord faithfully in the Middle East and the UK for many years, both reached the end of a season. True to life, both experienced the highs and lows of mission life, which caused them to grow and trust the Lord in new ways. The debriefing structure allows time and space to reflect on past events, relationships and expectations and to review each with the Lord and us. What went well? What was a challenge? How did it shape or forge a relationship of dependence upon Father God? Where was there spiritual victory? Where was there failure? Was there pain? In what way were expectations fulfilled? What was unfulfilled? What of the field experience lays a foundation for future service? What do you take forward? Excellent questions that need time to consider. We finish a week of debriefing with our clients with a time of worship, laying all down at the cross – confession, releasing pain, receiving and offering forgiveness, lifting up praise and thanksgiving.



The debriefing week is also an opportunity of rest and retreat for our guests. We want each mission worker to know how special they are to the Lord through warm acceptance and affirmation, thoughtful gifts and delights. When each walks through the door of the Annex, we want them to know that God has prepared a place for them. We look forward to receiving more missionaries into or home next year.

Our discipleship group is a joy and offers vital close fellowship. This autumn, we have returned to the pattern of the Tabernacle of Moses learning about God's boundary of holiness, His and our sacrifice, washing in the Word, walking in the light, true Spirit fellowship, effective prayer, and entering and abiding in the holy Presence of God.

A full discipleship "programme" is in "the pattern" preparing us for the return of the Lord! Do you realise that God the Holy Spirit wrote 50 chapters about this Divine Pattern? One wonders why it is taught so little. Please pray with us as we consider offering this series of teaching to a wider audience in 2018. By the way, the small model of the Tabernacle we purchased and assembled has been an invaluable visual aid in teaching.

On a personal note, Jan's mother recently moved into a retirement village in Plymouth, Devon and she was able to spend a few days with her in November. She has chosen a lovely maisonette and is settling in well. However, it was far from easy to leave the family home where she shared so many wonderful memories with Jan's father. Mintie has continued to struggle with stiffness and pain associated with Rheumatoid Arthritis. It has been tough. Various examinations and tests have revealed another problem in her lower spine. Inflammation in the spine is aggravating the sciatic nerve. It is severe and affects endurance and walking ability. She is grateful for the intervention of the Occupational Therapy department who are reassessing some changes in her bathroom to help her remain independent. Please pray for our overall health. Inside we are being renewed but the outer house is showing some cracks!

It remains for us to wish you all a very happy Christmas and we pray that 2018 will be a year of great promise. The international scene is changing fast and we would be wise to enter the New Year with our Bibles open, confident of God fulfilling His Word in and through world events. Encourage one another to stand strong together and be faithful to God's Word – reading, cherishing and studying it regularly. Exhort one another to be filled with the Holy Spirit every day, choosing acts of faith, love and service over unbelief, self-absorption and spiritual laziness. We will stand out from the crowd and will be persecuted for righteousness sake.

May the will of our heavenly Father be our choice. May Jesus, His message of hope, His suffering and His glory be our message. May the Holy Spirit empower us to stand firm in truth. May God be glorified in His Church.

Ever grateful for your prayers, love and support as we continue to serve the mission world. Our special love

Jan & Mintie