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P.O. Box 51  
Loughborough  
Leics.  
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Charles & Jocelyne Montagu  
78 Grand Avenue  
Worthing  
W. Sussex  
BN11 5AD

Tel: 01903 245592

[charlesm5219@gmail.com](mailto:charlesm5219@gmail.com)

## ***Dear Friends***

Thank you for your prayers for us. On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August we interred my mother's ashes with my father's in Frant churchyard, near Tunbridge Wells. It was a peaceful final farewell, on a beautiful day. Many thanks to all who sent us messages of condolence.

Two weeks in Hungary in the second half of August were the highlight of our summer. The first, with Emily and Robert, was in Budapest – a beautiful city. The second, with several hundred members of Pioneers, was at a resort hotel on the largest freshwater lake in Europe, another lovely setting. It was great to see many old friends and to make some new ones.



*A beautiful park on an island in the Danube*

From the ministry point of view, Charles was able to connect two of our Arab responders with several of the expat team members who coordinate face to face follow up of media contacts. It was great to see them meeting together and talking about inquirers with whom they have been in touch.

We are also glad to see our new director and his wife, Mark & Angelica Cassidy, with their six children, settling in happily.

## **Nabil in Morocco**

A month or so ago, I realised it would be better if I did not take on any new Arabic email correspondents. This is because some relationships can last a long time. I'm especially concerned for Nabil, a man in Morocco. I've been in touch with him on and off since March 2016.

Back then, he watched a brief gospel presentation on our website and responded, choosing the option:

*I need someone to guide me how to follow Christ.*

It gradually became clear that he had become a secret believer, but was very fearful. He was too scared to give his contact details so that a national believer could get in touch with him. I encouraged him to look at the testimonies that Moroccan believers have posted on Youtube. It is possible, though hard, to live as a Christian there.

In August he sent a despairing message saying that he would not write again. He was just finding life too difficult and said that he had been insulted and hit for being a Christian.

I replied immediately and we were able to remain in touch. Then, at last, he gave me his contact details. Since then I know that a Moroccan brother in Casablanca has called him and given his details to another brother in the town where he lives. But, in spite of emailing Nabil twice, I have not heard back.

This is typical of the frustrations of long distance, media ministry! Sometimes, it seems one step forward and two steps back. But we keep praying!

## Preparing to hand over

In September Fadi, an old friend from Marseille who has worked with us before, came over to discuss taking over many aspects of my role. We had a good time together and I'm glad that he has stepped forward to assume these responsibilities – particularly to encourage our Response team and to liaise between them and the friends who help us by arranging face to face visits to our contacts.

## St Matthew's

By the time you read this, our interregnum will have lasted over a year. But things have now moved forward and the Diocese has encouraged us to advertise for a 'Priest-in-Charge'. The closing date for applications is 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov, with interviews on 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. So we urgently ask for your prayers that the right person will see our adverts in the Church Times and then make an application. Of course, we will also need to discern that they are the right person!

## Family news

*Edward* continues with his work at Holy Trinity, Hastings, particularly involved with youth.

*Emily* is working hard at her PGCE. So far all is going well, stressful at times, but on the whole very positive!

*Robert* has returned to Bath for his second year, studying Maths. The highlight of his summer was a week in Los Angeles. He is enjoying sharing a house with four friends and is looking for a placement in industry for his third year.

## Retirement looms

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, I will reach the grand age of 65, and so will retire at the end of the year. Jocelyne will leave the office at the same time. We both feel it is the right time to go. Although there are many things I will miss, I will not be sorry to stop staring at the computer for so many hours a day.

It has been great to see the Lord using the ministry of the Response team. I'm often touched as I read the replies we get from inquirers. It is special when

we are able to remain in contact and to see them grow in their understanding of the gospel. And it's a great joy when we can put them in touch with someone who can then visit them and send us a first-hand report of how they are getting on.

Firas is a Syrian refugee, living in Jordan. In August, he received Christ through dialoguing with one of our responders on WhatsApp. He was fearful and asked that any face to face meeting with one of our friends should be in complete confidence.

In September, we received this encouraging report:

*We had an excellent meeting. F has a very limited understanding of the Bible and the Christian faith, but he is completely on board and ready to make a decision no matter what it costs. We had a great time of prayer together, and are looking for someone who can follow him up more regularly.*

## Money matters

We are so grateful for all who have supported us in prayer and financially. After the end of December, we will no longer be seeking to raise financial support. If you would like some advice about how you can support the ministry of AWM-Pioneers or Arab World Media, please contact June Farrant in our Loughborough office: [junef@awm-pioneers.org](mailto:junef@awm-pioneers.org)

## Praise & Prayer

- ❖ For the Lord's help to us over 34 years for Charles and 31 for Jocelyne with AWM.
- ❖ For the safe arrival of the Cassidy family – and for God's guidance to Mark as he takes on the leadership of the Media ministry.
- ❖ For Fadi's stepping forward to take on Charles' responsibilities.
  
- ❖ For Nabil in Morocco, and many like him.
- ❖ For the right person to come to be our Vicar at St Matthew's.
- ❖ For wise planning for our retirement activities!

Wishing you every blessing

**Charles & Jocelyne**

AWM: a charity registered in England