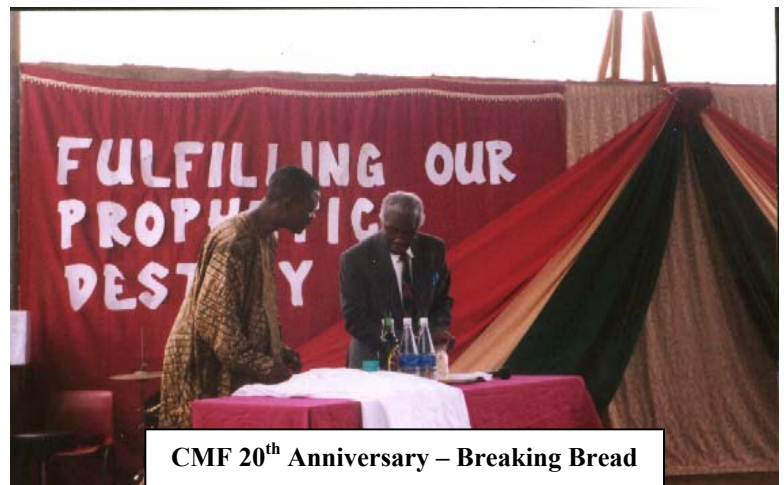


TWO MONTHS OF TRAVELLING

Nigeria, Rome and Israel

In the last issue, I reviewed the challenges we had to face as a family in the first half of this year. I also indicated that the Lord spoke of that period as a preparation for better things to come. Early in the second half of this year, I received an invitation to speak at and generally preside over portions of the 20th Anniversary Celebrations of the Christian missionary Foundation of Nigeria, scheduled for the 14th to the 18th of August, 2002 inclusive. After the Lord graciously pointed to funds in Nigeria, which could be used for the airfare, He opened the way for my wife Bridget and baby Olushakin to come as well. A donor gave us £510 for their fare, but we had to shop around for a cheap flight and in the end, they arrived in Nigeria two days later and left a day earlier than I did. Claire Henderson kindly gave me a ride to Heathrow and Tunde, my son, saw me off.

It was clear from the start that to expend about £900 for a Virgin Airlines ticket, for just one 5-day meeting would not be cost-effective. Our faithful friends in Abuja (Brother Dan and Pius) therefore made arrangements for us to minister in a wide variety of other situations. This included two nights of sermons and ministrations at Assemblies of Christ in Ibadan, as well as prayer/conference meetings and private counselling sessions organised by the three ministers (Abiodun, Funso and Onaolapo). Sister Phoebe



CMF 20th Anniversary – Breaking Bread

organised the excellent care we received, assisted by a number of other ladies and we were housed very comfortably at Deborah Mission.

For that restful place, we were ferried back and forth by Brother Funso (who had met me with others on arrival in Nigeria) to Idere, the rural location, where the CMF Anniversary took place. I presented



CMF – Sponsors and Delegates

awards to good performers among the delegates, drawn from 17 African countries.

Taking the day off to sort out some business in the University from which I retired in Ile-Ife, we fitted so many social visits into short stay. Brother Dan comfortably transported us, to the Federal Capital in Abuja, where we again ministered in two different organisations. We spoke for two nights and a morning at the New Creation Bible Church in

Gwagwalada, Abuja and also ministered at the Cell Church organised by Brother Dan and Pius. There were also several one-on-one ministrations in addition to visitations to and from close members of our family and many old friends. After a brief interlude with my mother-in-law at Sapele, we were conveyed by Brother Dan to Port Harcourt, where we stayed two nights. We had a glorious time of ministry at the Carpenter's Church pastored by Pastor Charles Omofoma.



Pastor Joe of New Creation Bible Church



Choir of The Carpenter's Church, Port Harcourt



Linda Edukugho and Pastor and Mrs George Oyegunle, who lived nearby.

We wound our way back to Ibadan , having said farewell to Pastor Charles as well as Pastor Sunny Williams from Aba and Pastor Kola Ahmed from Abuja and Akure. We also called at Sapele to make sure all was well with my mother-in-law. We spent another couple of days tying up loose ends at Ibadan and Ile-Ife and were then hosted in Lagos by Pastor Kemi Raji and his wife Taiwo at New Covenant Hotel (Gowon Estate). Before we left Lagos, we had fellowship with Evangelist

Although it was good to return home to the children at Emneth, Wisbech, I was not home for long. After a quiet birthday celebration on the 3rd of September, I was off via Stansted Airport to Rome (Ciampino) on Thursday the 5th of September. I was met by Ndrani (the wife of my host) and Shirlene Philips, who had arranged it all. There was a fairly quiet introduction to some members of the Sri Lankan Christian community that evening. Until the next Monday morning (the 9th of September) when we returned to England (with Shirlene and husband), I was fully engrossed in ministry. In this, Shirlene, who interpreted for me and shared in some

ministry, ably assisted me. The flat I shared with



Miracle in Rome

Shirlene and her husband Eddie was hardly devoid of visitors throughout the four nights we spent there. We had a particularly long and blessed session on Friday night, teaching, preaching, counselling and ministering. Many received Christ and were baptised with the Holy Spirit and there was a remarkable healing from a longstanding neurological disease. The man, who had difficulty in walking unaided was totally healed and was able to jog the next day. The pastor of the Sri Lankan Church was there, with his wife and children and he



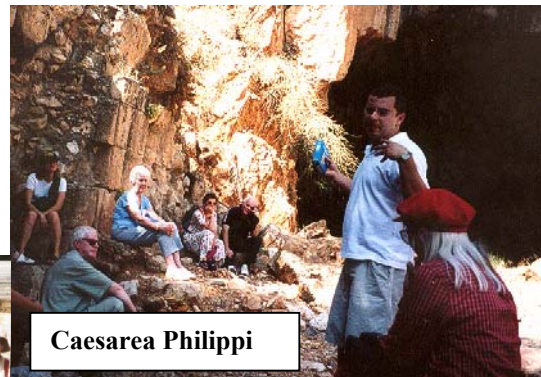
Sri Lankan Church in Rome

kindly invited me to preach and minister at the Sunday service. It was a time of utter blessedness.

There were still more blessings to come.

Our friend , had a wonderful windfall and decided, quite generously, to share it with thirty other Christians (including my wife and baby and myself) and her husband in a Shoresh study tour of Israel. This was scheduled for the 17th to the 29th of August, but I had previously arranged to lead a weekend for the Conard Christian Fellowship from 27th to 29th August. However, the Shoresh organisers were able to fit us in, with a flight back on the 26th. We had a fabulous time, although most of the time, we were at the receiving end. We travelled on

arrival from Tel Aviv to Ma'agan Hotel right on the Sea of Galilee. We arrived quite late and went straight to bed after a quick supper. We were up very early the next day, as we had a full day's exploration of the area before us. We looked at the site of most of the Galilean miracles of Jesus –this included Korazin and Capernaum and the 'Boat Museum', which showed a boat lifted from the bottom of the sea and refurbished. The next day, Thursday, we looked at Golan Heights, Mount Hermon and 'Nimrod' Castle and went close to the border of Israel with Syria. On Friday, we spent time in Nazareth (where there was an attempt to reconstruct life in the village at the time of Jesus), and then went on to a tour of Caesarea, before travelling to Jerusalem. On Saturday, we toured through the Judean Desert and Bethany and came to Jericho, before visiting Masada and the Dead Sea. Some soldiers turned us back at the point of crossing of the River Jordan, because it was too risky. We were privileged to see the beginning of the Feast of Tabernacles at En-gedi (in the desert). After a beautiful morning service at Christchurch, where Canon Andrew White preached (seven points) on the meaning of Succoth –the Feast, we had lunch and ended up at the Feast of Tabernacles, where Lance Lambert preached and Ariel Sharon spoke. Book, where the Dead Sea Scrolls are kept – we had seen



Caesarea Philippi

the caves housing the Essenes in the desert, where the scrolls were found earlier. We also went to the Holocaust Museum (Yar Varshem), which was an emotion-laden



atmosphere- very impressive. At the Feast of Tabernacles, which was remarkable for the celebrations in the evenings, there were the talks in the mornings and the exhibition stands- David Pawson was awesome in his



En-Gedi feast

three talks of the Letter to the Romans.



Jerusalem March

purpose of the Lord for our ministry. We were to focus on building two parallel houses, one for prayer (focus of light) and one for discipling and the two were to be complimentary. There were to be several of these round the world. This was a remarkable confirmation of what we had been doing. We had Derek Prince for a short while that Wednesday evening. We travelled home on Thursday the 26th.

Our last big excitement was a visit to Ruth Ward Heflin's House of Prayer on Wednesday the 25th, where we participated in a lunchtime service. There was an elderly lady with the name Yehudit, who received a prophetic word from the Lord for our ministry. Briefly, it was describing the general



Mount Zion Prayer Fellowship

Finally, on Friday the 27th, I travelled to Hoddesdon to lead a weekend away for Conard Christian Fellowship at High Leigh Conference Centre. It took some time to warm up, but it was a time of great blessedness. The fellowship was relaxed and informal and there was a sense of real visitation from the Lord. There were about forty people present. The format was worship followed by talks (three on Saturday) and ended with a time of ministry. The meals were times of sharing and fellowship as well and we had breaking of bread on Sunday morning. The prayer time at the end was particularly good, because I was at the receiving end.

Our Debt of Gratitude

We have a lot to thank God for in the last few months since the last publication. There has been quite a bit of travelling and God granted perfect journey mercies. This is even more remarkable when you consider that our baby of about one year travelled with us both around Nigeria and around Israel. Most observers thought it was highly hazardous and unwise to take Olushakin on either journey. We trusted Him, and were not put to shame. God's provisions were extraordinary, to say the least. People who had barely known us were very generous with us. In all the places visited, we saw the hand of God in all our undertakings. Because he gave the visions, He also made the provisions. We need to thank especially all the people who hosted us, transported us, invited us and listened to our ministrations. We are not oblivious of the incredible debt we owe the people who support our work, by giving to it financially, sitting on the Board of Trustees, editing and producing, managing our web-page or helping us in any of many other ways, most especially with prayer.

The prayer requests need updating. Someone did offer voluntary secretarial help, and this is yet to be taken up. The database is still waiting for updating and the brochures to go with the gift-aid forms are still being constructed. Although I have started to write, I need much more inspiration than I have now, as everything seems so painfully slow at the moment. We also need the healing hand of the Lord to come on us in a greater measure than before. I had a succession of boils, which have been investigated thoroughly. They required antibiotics to get rid of them. My wife had an operation for repair of hernia and there were other irritations here and there in the home. His grace has been sufficient, but we ask for more facilitation from above. It was curious the way the Lord confirmed in a prayer house in Jerusalem His call to set up praying small groups and fellowships round the world. This is still waiting for a breakthrough with regard to fulfilment. Finally, I would like to be a better servant to my Master and to increase the compliance of my whole household, which is set up as a team ministering first to the Lord and then to men, women and children in our micro-world.