

THE STAGNER FAMILY

CHURCH PLANTING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM
1 Corinthians 14:40 "Let all things be done decently and in order."

Dear Fellow Labourers in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

This month's letter is dedicated to an update on our *Missionary Internship Programme*. By way of general report, the churches are doing well. As we enter the latter half of July and move into August—a peak holiday period in the United Kingdom—many families are travelling abroad or taking time away.

Foundation

June marked the six-month milestone for our internship programme, with Trey and Josie Sheppard faithfully serving since January of this year. The purpose of this internship is to assist church planters and missionaries in adapting to ministry in the United Kingdom, with the long-term goal of developing lifelong labourers and reducing the tragic attrition rate we've seen over the years. While no system can eliminate all obstacles, our aim is to establish a strong foundation that helps minimise early departures from the field.

The internship is structured to help each family acclimate to the new culture and learn the 'ins and outs' of their assigned village, town, or city. From the very first month, interns are required to complete a checklist to reduce distractions and solidify their footing within the community. These essential first-month tasks include:

- Obtaining a UK Driver's Licence
- Setting up a Bank Account
- Securing a Mobile Phone Plan
- Registering with a General Practitioner (GP)
- Receiving an NHS Number
- Applying for a National Insurance Number (if applicable)
- Completing a DBS Certificate (required for working with youth)

A comprehensive manual accompanies the programme, including a full checklist and step-by-step guidance.

Focus

Throughout the 52-week programme, the intern is trained to operate with *intentionality, involvement, and interjection*—functioning both ministerially and relationally inside and outside the church walls. The manual provides weekly guidance in the following areas:

- **Scheduling Meetings** – Contacting and arranging meetings with prospective churches for future deputation.
- **Leaflet Distribution** – Distributing gospel tracts and engaging in public evangelism.
- **Community Outreach** – Meeting new people, sharing testimonies, offering prayer, and inviting them to church.
- **Preaching Preparation** – Structuring sermons, selecting Scriptures, and refining pulpit ministry.
- **Personal Reflection** – Maintaining a daily journal to document spiritual growth, victories, and lessons learned.
- **Outing with the Wife** – Setting aside at least one day per week for quality time with one's wife to strengthen the marriage. *This is a requirement, not an option.*

In addition to these elements, the interns are actively involved in both of our local church ministries. Their responsibilities include youth work, pulpit supply, music leadership, service coordination, and more.

Forward

Trey and Josie have done a marvellous job thus far. They completed all first-month requirements ahead of schedule and have adjusted extremely well to life and ministry in Wales. They are daily involved in community outreach and have assisted with Bible classes at the local primary school. They are scheduled to complete their internship in January 2026, after which they plan to return to the United States to complete deputation. Their vision is to return to Wales and plant a new church under the banner of *Calvary Baptist Churches of Great Britain*.

I can sincerely say they have exceeded expectations. It is a privilege to serve alongside them in the great commission. I wholeheartedly commend them to your missions programme as a worthy extension of your outreach to the world.

As always, thank you for your continued prayers and faithful support. Your partnership enables us to press forward in our mission to plant Bible-believing churches across South Wales. Thank you for standing with us in this gospel work.

Till the shout,

B. J. Stagner
BJ, Denise & Bailey

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Dear Friends,

We are profoundly grateful for your steadfast prayers and support as we turn our focus from purchasing to **reducing the debt** on our new church building.

By God's grace we have received **\$9500.00** toward debt reduction of the loan for the new building. Thank you for your sacrificial support and prayers.

Current financial picture

- **Total funds received (including loan):** \$193,389.37
- **Loan balance:** \$90,500
- **Contribution from our local congregation:** £7,195 ($\approx$ \$9,500)

If you feel led to help, every gift—large or small—brings us closer to retiring this debt quickly. Donations may be sent through our sending church; please note “UK Church Building” in the memo line.

Thank you for standing with us in prayer and giving. Your kindness and partnership mean more than words can say.

Prayer Requests - Praise Reports

- Trey and Josie had their baby! Praise the Lord, Evelyn June. Please pray for the all.
- Natalie and Lee's first baby, Rory;
- Jess and Jason's first baby, Arabella;
- Debt pay off on the church;
- The Point - Cynon Valley and The Point - Cardiff Youth Clubs to continue to grow;
- **10% growth of both campuses this year;**
- Our family and continual support for the ministry;
- Man power in the ministry; We need labourers!
- The potential upstart of a teen ministry and leaders to do so;
- Protection and God's moving hand in the midst of weekly outreach and the outreach team.
- The Lord to maintain the open doors and open new ones in His timing.