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Leal Family Update – January 2018

Dear Sally!

Hello, and Happy New Year if we haven't already said so! We had a really great Christmas, our first one back together in England since 2009.

We enjoyed the traditional things – the Christmas services back at Holland Road, mince pies, the Queen's Speech, and just that special English Christmassy feeling. Having said that, just a little Brazilian sunshine would have been nice, and this year when we go to visit family, we must try to avoid parking for three hours on the M25...



Future Plans ?

As you may know, we came back to England with some plans already in place: Mike would continue with OM, Louissa would start University and Joshua would go to college to do A-levels. But we'd like to start the year by asking Nélia about *her* plans for the future:

Nélia, first remind us about your return to the UK in 2017

"I finished my time in Brazil leading the Training Department that I joined as the 'English Teacher' in 2010. I was the last of the Leal family to pack my bags, arriving back in England last July.



On mission in Wales,
December 2017

I knew I wouldn't be able to continue the same role back in the UK, but I was very much in need of a break, which meant I could take some time to think, explore and seek the Lord's will for me in this next season. I considered options with either OMUK or OM Latin America, but wasn't sure how things would work out financially or if I would need to get a part-time teaching job. I was also keen to see if there was a suitable ministry to join back at Holland Road Baptist Church. Whatever the choice, I wanted to avoid lots of travelling as I felt I should be around to support Mike and Josh.

"And how is 2018 working out so far?"

"Well, I am very excited to have taken on a new role at Holland Road leading the prayer ministry and team. I believe prayer is so key to church life, as it is in missions. It was great to start the year at Holland Road with a special week of prayer, and I am looking forward to more of the same later in the year.

As well as this, Mike and I have joined the United Café team. This is a ministry that welcomes international students every Wednesday evening. We offer refreshments and the chance for them to play games, practise their English, socialise, and we often put on special events or have a short presentation. Click on the picture for more information.

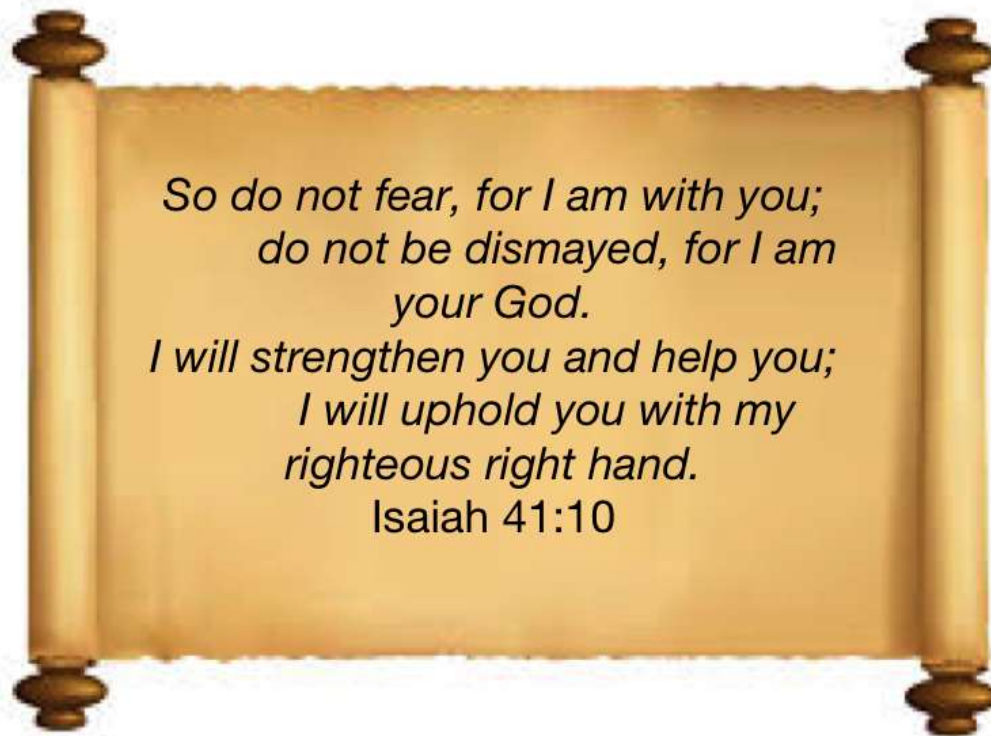


Also, Mike and I are getting involved with Olivet language school, giving

short devotions or a bible study every Wednesday morning. Many of the Olivet students also come to United Café, so we get to know some of them quite well. Our aim is to be available for any of them, whether Christians or not, should they need prayer or just to chat."

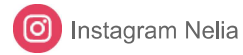
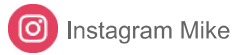
"But you haven't gone back to teaching?"

"No, I am not teaching at the moment, but this is something I am exploring for 2018. In the meantime, the Lord has provided me with a job, as an *exam invigilator* for a local school. This is only 'occasional' work, during GCSE mocks and exams, but it will help us pay the bills!"



Please Pray for Nélia!

- For God's guidance and wisdom for leading the prayer ministry
- That she will grow relationships with many international students, and that they will encounter the love of Jesus
- For good health
- That she will find a good local teaching job



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