



# BURRILLS

## Serving in MALTA

### September 2024

**"Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth" -Mark 1:38.** After finishing a series on 1 Timothy at Bible Baptist Church, we have begun a series from Mark's Gospel and have noted that Jesus intends His message to be constantly on the move so that more people can encounter True Life. Mark's account of Jesus's ministry concludes with the command for his disciples to take that message into all the world. As part of that commission, we have been serving in Malta for the last seven years by God's grace and your assistance. Thank you for being part of this work!

### Family Update

This summer was one of change for us as our oldest son, Rowan, returned to Canada in June to begin the next chapter of his life there. While he awaits the completion of his Armed Forces application, he is staying with Erica's parents, and after a busy July of enjoying and helping with camp ministry at Windcrest Bible Camp, is hoping to work for the next months before going to basic training. We miss him a lot, but are grateful for a great family and church network that can help care for him.

Back in Malta, the temperatures are still warm and the humidity increases until things begin to cool in October. Kian is attending a new school this year, and entered grade 11 last week. He anticipates a good year and seems to be pleased with his teachers, school environment, and friends. Naya finished primary school last year and will join Selah at secondary school where they are entering grades 6 and 9. They have enjoyed a 3-day a week musical theatre club over the summer and will start the new school year September 25th. **Pray for the kids as they continue to mature; that their wisdom will increase, and their walk with God will deepen.** Erica and I continue to manage life and engage in ministry. My health was not great during the first part of the summer and my capacity was lower than usual, but I am grateful to have turned a corner toward feeling better, and am thankful for God's grace to carry me along each week. Our teammates have been away since March and May, so we are looking forward to their return in mid-September.

### Upcoming Ministry

Our Sunday services have been well-attended over the summer, as well as our mid-week services both in Malta and Gozo. We always have students and visitors who fill in the gaps even with some of our regulars away traveling. Over the next few weeks most of our travellers who have been away for large sections of the summer (or the whole summer) will return. With our teammates returning, I will be able to devote more time to completing my Doctor of Ministry project, and need to complete my writing by the end of the year in order to graduate from Faith Baptist Theological Seminary in May. **I would**

**appreciate your prayers for the completion of my work.**

Erica is teaching children's church during these months and is looking forward to leading a Bible study through Philippians with ladies beginning in October. **Pray for the spiritual growth of the church's women and the impact that fellowshipping together through Philippians will make.** A handful of men took turns teaching the teens on Sundays over the summer months, and in a few weeks our Thursday teen group will restart. **The teen ministry grew and gained traction last year, and we are praying for a fruitful year again this year.**

I am looking forward to leading a new season of our men's mentorship group. Besides my BMM colleague, Luke, we have five men in the group and we hope to add a couple more this year. Three of our men in the program became deacons in this last year, two of them have preached multiple times in our main services, and they all take turns teaching the teens. We meet monthly to discuss a book we have read together that month, pray together, discuss church life, discuss new ideas, and stimulate each other's spiritual growth. As time goes on, **I am praying we will see a couple men move a step further toward more intensive pastoral training/apprenticing.**

Our Gozo ministry was reduced to two Wednesdays a month over the summer, but we will resume weekly meetings again soon. We still desire to see God provide a family who would devote themselves to church-planting ministry on that island of 40,000 that does not have an established evangelical church. **Would you pray for this need?**

We continue to counsel and encourage people who are struggling through various difficulties in their lives and seek to communicate the gospel clearly in the interactions the Lord gives us. Just two nights ago, we had an unplanned opportunity to spend an hour discussing the questions of a young man who is not yet saved, but has been attending our church periodically for almost a year. Little by little, it seems objections are being removed. **Pray for his salvation.**

There will be further opportunities to help the University Bible Group when the new year begins in another month, and we look forward to teaching our church about missions through a special missions weekend when our field administrator and another European missionary visit at the beginning of October. Our church, consisting of people from over thirty nationalities, and positioned in the middle of Mediterranean has the potential for great gospel impact beyond our shores. **Pray that our people will gain a greater vision for how God can use their lives for His glory.**

Thank you for praying for us, for financially supporting our ministry, and for the email communication and cards you send to encourage us. You are a blessing!

In Christ,  
Josh, Erica, Rowan, Kian, Selah, and Naya Burrill



Our teammates, Joe and Jenny Mifsud were recently interviewed on the Send938 podcast. Click on the link to listen to the account of how the Lord has worked in Malta. Look for the episode titled: **Pioneering Work in the Modern Era**. As of this week, it is about the 6th episode down the list. <https://www.bmm.org/serve/send938>

Photos: (Rowan was able to enjoy graduation celebrations as well as family get-togethers to celebrate the 95th and 99th birthdays of his great grandparents), (Mgarr Harbour, Gozo, where the ferries come in from Malta), (Statues in front of the Mosta Rotunda. Summer in Malta is full of each community celebrating feasts in honour of their patron saints. The feasts consist of food trucks, street parties, and a LOT of fireworks. A few weeks ago during the feast to mark the (supposed) assumption of Mary, one family bid 40,200 Euros to have the honour of carrying the statue of Mary during the processional (outbidding another family by 200 Euros who has carried the statue many previous years). Though secularisation is happening at a rapid pace, religiosity runs deep.).

