

transcript of video from Tom Wheeler, dated October 6, 2023

Greetings, again, from South Wales! It is autumn here. That means changes are afoot - changes for families, with children moving up with their classmates, some having to go from primary to secondary school - and changes for church ministries. Last Sunday was mission Sunday, with £578 given to missions - not a record for us, but substantial for a small congregation of several on fixed incomes, as our treasurer pointed out to me. On Sunday will be our Harvest Sunday service, and we will be mindful of our Lord's gracious provision for which we are thankful. We also had a business meeting recently, where we made some decisions for Grace Baptist Assembly as we prepare to go forward.

We spoke about things we had tried around our present location. I mentioned previously the Saturday game outreach. We did have a few people come, but not from our targeted demographic. Nor was there any real genuine interest in spiritual matters. We started our first *Bible* study in our present location in early 2018. We have preached, invited, offered help, given help...to what seems to be ever-decreasing interest in the things of God. Our members seem to be likeminded in thinking that perhaps we have gotten to a Matthew 10:14 type situation, where we need to "shake off the dust" of our feet against their refusal to "hear" our words. There are few advantages, I suppose, to not having your own building, but one of them is to be able to move on to brighter prospects. We have an agreement with the proprietors of our present premises through the end of November. Earlier this week I pulled the trigger and arranged for us to finish and move to a new community that is closer to the homes of some of our people. Where we are now, everyone must drive. Where we are relocating to, some of the congregation can walk. And it has a parking lot for those who must drive, which we currently lack. And there are many houses and people very close and in every direction for a change. And we are starting right at Advent/Christmas season. And our people are excited about the prospects.

So, we would ask that you make all this a matter of prayer on our behalf over the next couple of months. May the gospel go forth in power as we take the good news to a new community. May the people there find our merciful Lord mighty to save even the worst of sinners! It is what the Lord Jesus left heaven to do! And O, that He would condescend to allow us to have a part in it! All glory to His name!

Beloved of God, we cannot thank you often enough for being mission-minded, missionary loving, prayer partners and co-labourers in the Lord's work here in South Wales. Grace and peace to you all as we fix our eyes upon Christ and look to Him for help. Amen and amen.