

# Tom Rooney Family

## Missionaries in Gainsborough, England



Mailing Address:  
Willow House  
Summer Hill  
Gainsborough  
DN21 1HQ  
United Kingdom

E-mail: [therooneys@btinternet.com](mailto:therooneys@btinternet.com)



Sent By/through:  
Newark Baptist Temple  
Missionary Clearing House  
Pastor: Mark Falls  
81 Licking View Drive  
Heath, Ohio 43056  
740-522-3600



April 2020

Dear Pastor,

*“And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.”*

Mark 6:31

As is the case for most of you reading this letter, we are currently experiencing the shutdown due to the Coronavirus. The “unsocial” distancing rules and others restrictions came into effect on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Since that day we have been unable to have Sunday services or Thursday night Bible studies. We were stopped from having nursing home services a couple of weeks before that. The town center market outreach opportunity has been shut down as well.

The closings have caused us to cancel our annual Easter service and meal. The ladies had a retreat scheduled which has now been postponed.

Though we have some contact with the people who have been attending the church services, it has been a time of rest in some ways. It seems to be a time where the Lord’s invitation in Matthew 11:28 is evident: *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”* Pray that we will continue to “take his yoke” and “learn of Him”.

### Food Distribution

One aspect of keeping in contact with several of the people is through collecting and distributing food that comes from items that have reached their “sell by” date. The community center where we normally hold our services has become a distribution center for this effort. Though organized by another group, we are able to use the system to meet this need and keep in touch with the people of the church.

### Difficult Issues

We have been asked by some when we are going to have services again. Their interest in meeting is encouraging but brings up challenging questions. Since we do not have our own building, we are not able to make all of our own decisions about meeting. We wonder:

- How long should we wait to try and meet again?
- Will there come a time that we should meet even though the “rules” don’t allow it?
- Will it come to a point where we have to operate “underground”?

A temporary suspension of meeting seems reasonable but the longer this goes on, the more

difficult it will be to ignore the Lord’s plan for the church to assemble. These experiences remind us that believers in other parts of the world and in other times have had to make these hard decisions. May the Lord find us faithful if we are faced with that challenge.

### Travel

Due to a death in the family, Addie traveled to the USA in March. Her aunt had struggled with Huntington’s disease for several years. The Lord allowed Addie to be with her family for the viewing and the funeral. She was also able to visit our oldest daughter and son as well as our home church. It was a challenge to get her on a return flight but, after two changes, the Lord allowed her to return on the same day as originally planned.

Thank you for praying that the Lord will do a special work in this trying time.

### On-going Prayer Needs

- *Revival in the US and the UK*
- *British men, women, and children to come to Christ*
- *Our family to be in the center of God’s will*
- *Church growth*

**“There are grave difficulties on every hand, and more are looming ahead. Therefore, we must go forward.”**

– William Carey