

# Alison Giblett

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[churchmissionsociety.org/giblett](http://churchmissionsociety.org/giblett)

CHURCH  
MISSION  
SOCIETY



## The call in action

Dear faithful friends,

Thank you very much for your prayers and ongoing support through these unsettled times. I greatly appreciate it, knowing many of you have been under pressure.

I have been keeping well and am very glad that I stayed here in Ukraine at this time and did not return to London before the borders closed. Although we have many restrictions, we have still been able to meet in small groups of up to ten. So as leaders we divided the whole church geographically and formed house churches, making sure each group had leaders and musicians. Therefore, our quarantine, which started on 12 March, has been a period of spiritual growth.

Many leaders who previously had one area of responsibility now have experience of leading the whole service for a small group. In addition, we have seen significant growth in the use of spiritual gifts. The quieter members who did not have confidence to testify or share a word or picture from God before have been contributing so that we see the implementation of earlier teaching on 1 Corinthians 14, in particular verse 26: *"What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up."*

We had two significant long weekends of prayer and fasting this semester, where we enjoyed lots of worship, hearing God's now word for us and praying for one another. Thankfully we have not had any restrictions on singing. One was open house in February just before the quarantine period, and the next not until June, just for church members. We needed to be cautious, wearing our masks and keeping to small numbers outside, and decided not to break our fast together at the end like usual, as the conference centre owners were very nervous. They kept watching and we kept praying, not knowing each day if we would have to suddenly pack up and leave. However, praise God: we stayed to the end of our booking and left feeling that we had received overflowing blessings on the last day through a prophetic sermon from Andrey Bondarenko, leader of the New Frontiers group of churches in Ukraine.

I am very grateful to God for his hand on our Genesis training groups as well. The first month, I spent a lot of time training students and trainers in how to use Zoom. Again, we have seen some advantages and some losses. We have



**Name:** Alison Giblett

**Location:** Ukraine

**My call:** To encourage people to trust Jesus with their lives and their pain in exchange for his fullness.

**My role:** I lead the Genesis ministry which helps people replace their destructive beliefs and behaviours with God's truth and freedom. I also help facilitate evangelism with the Holy Spirit Mission in Ukraine and abroad.



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*Worship in our house church*

lost some students, a few due to challenges with technology and others from the consequences of quarantine. Many people without work have gone back to their villages, where internet is limited. Others are living in very cramped flats, and with everyone at home, there is nowhere they can have a private conversation. On the other hand, some who managed to find privacy, e.g. by going out to walk the dog, were finding it easier to open up than before.

Thankfully public transport had started running again and the restrictions had lifted enough that we were able to join together for the first time after quarantine for both groups to be able to celebrate their completion.

Normally we would be going on many mission trips at this time. However, as in many other places, it has been very difficult to plan when the restrictions keep changing and people's lives and work are unstable. In the second week of August, we are planning a mission trip to our partner church, about an hour west of Kiev. We have continued support for the church plant in the village of Sitniki, where we have already held many evangelistic events. The leaders had previously been working independently since 2014, when they had to leave the east, but were struggling to see breakthrough despite developing many good relationships. At their request last year, they became a daughter church plant and in January, the leaders joined our leadership team to align themselves with our vision and heart. This has meant a high time commitment from them on top of running their busy farm. However, they have often testified of God's blessing on their sales, and recently on their cow's birth of twin calves.

I very much enjoyed participating in the small wedding of a long-term friend and seeing the answer to our prayers. In typical spontaneous form, I received the invitation the evening before the wedding.

I plan to change the way I communicate for some. I will continue the quarterly CMS link letters such as this one. These are officially checked and prepared by CMS's central office. I used to send out bi-monthly email newsletters however often these become very similar to the official CMS letter and there is still a delay between when the event takes place and when you receive the news report about it. Increasingly, individuals and churches are wanting a more immediate flow of news. I already have a couple of WhatsApp groups where I share immediate requests and reports. These messages are normally short, informal and specifically requesting prayer for an immediate event. Therefore, instead of the extra email updates, I plan to increase access to my WhatsApp prayer group. If you would like to receive these messages, please send me a request by email or direct to my WhatsApp number, +380 930 356 290. Often they go out just before the weekend. I plan to end the regular email and focus on these two forms of communication.

May you enjoy your summer nearer home, and hear the wisdom of the Spirit for building stronger relationships with those around you.

Blessings from Kiev

Alison



*Photos from top to bottom: Five young people celebrating baptism in the forest; celebrating Pentecost in football stadium; cake for "50-cost"; celebrating a friend's wedding*

## GOING FURTHER WITH CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY

**Mission Unscripted:** How are CMS people in mission responding to COVID-19? Some are working harder than ever at what they were already doing, others are turning their hand to something different! Go to [churchmissionsociety.org/mission-unscripted](https://churchmissionsociety.org/mission-unscripted)

If you would like to discuss your mailings with us or to receive this link letter on a regular basis, please email [supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org](mailto:supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org) or call 01865 787400

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