

MONMOUTHSHIRE 40p Wednesday, April 10, 2013

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Dear Friends,

Hopefully when you read this, the warmer weather will finally be here? The seasons are certainly not what they used to be, are they? Having just said that, Margaret and I shall be going to one part of the world in early June where we should be guaranteed a fair bit of sunshine, namely Uganda.

Most if not all major church denominations give their ministers what is known as a sabbatical every seven years. For three months we are encouraged to recharge and reinvent (!) ourselves through a mixture of quality time with family and friends, meditation and reflection, quiet retreats, and written and practical work on a special project.

The theme for my sabbatical is God Amongst The Disadvantaged.

For two weeks Margaret and I will be working with Revelation Life, a charity dedicated to helping people living in the slums achieve a better standard

of living. For both of us this means moving out of our comfort zones and it is something that I for one approach with a mixture of anticipation and trepidation.

Yet we know that this is what we need to do, and the sabbatical is the ideal opportunity. We have supported Revelation Life for a number of years now, but this is the first time we have had the opportunity to go and see for ourselves the work going on.

We have seen videos by those who have visited, pictures of smiling faces, young and old, who despite living in the direst of circumstances sense the presence of God with them. Their God is not a million light years away but right there with them in the troubles, anxiety and poverty, but above all in the encouragement of those working and giving freely and willingly of their time.

May the God of encouragement bless you and encourage you in your times of struggle too.

Thought for
the weak



with the Rev Preben
Andersen