

# The Keswick Fellowship

International news April 2020



## A call to prayer

'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear ...'  
(Psalm 46:1,2)

Dear brothers and sisters!

Around the world in some 15 countries there are over 80 events which relate in some way to the Keswick Fellowship. We seek to pray for one another and encourage one another forward, sharing resources and fellowship as best we can. This newsletter is **a call to prayer** because of the impact of the **Covid19** virus all around the world.

## Australia

There are some 10 locations across the country where Conventions are held, and several hold large Easter events, all of which are impacted.

**Belgrave Heights Convention** (Melbourne) is going online with *'Easter Convention Re-Imagined'*: [www.bhc.org.au](http://www.bhc.org.au) They face a substantial financial challenge, as they are also embarking on a multi-million dollar building project, for accommodation and meeting rooms for 220 people: pray that people will generously support this wonderful project.

**Katoomba Christian Conventions** is also a big operation with multiple events. It has cancelled the Easter Convention, and re-scheduled the 3 events for high schoolers (involving 6000 young people). Pray for these many changes and financial challenges. [www.kcc.org.au](http://www.kcc.org.au)

**Mount Tamborine Convention** has also cancelled the Easter event, and will face some challenges financially. In 2019 over 13,000 people attended events on site, but there is now added concern because churches and events are cancelling site bookings. Please pray for them as they navigate these challenges. [www.mtcc.org.au](http://www.mtcc.org.au)





## Canada

The **Halifax Metro Keswick** in Nova Scotia has been operating for many years, and continues to reach a wide cross-section of evangelicals each year. They have a new chairman, Andrew Cooke, and a good team of fellow workers. They ask that we pray for revival in the city of Halifax; that God would call new Council members to join the work, representing a wider spread of denominations; and that God would provide financially, as they now prepare for 2021. [www.keswickconvention.ca](http://www.keswickconvention.ca)

## Cayman

The **Cayman Keswick** has been running since 1974, and continues to attract believers from across the denominations for an annual event. The most recent was in January, with both lunchtime and evening sessions, and with meetings also broadcast on local radio. There are 130 churches on Grand Cayman (the largest of the 3 islands), and Keswick is one of the few activities which brings believers together from across the churches. Please pray that they will be able to strengthen their committee and will know the Lord's strength as they take the work forward.



## Hungary

BalationNET has held an August event since 2007, and last August they welcomed around 1500 people. Please **pray they will not need to cancel this August** – they have a good theme: '*Healthy fellowship & community!*' They also ask for prayer for new donors to help fund the event, and for a Government grant for some equipment. They thank God that speakers and musicians are all confirmed for this year.

[www.balatonnet.hu/english/](http://www.balatonnet.hu/english/)

## Japan

The **Japan Keswick** is held in many cities across the country (over 10 locations) and, since their meetings were held this February (just as Covid19 started), no events needed to be cancelled. They ask for prayer for churches in this situation: in Japan there was quite a large-scale revival in 1918 when the Spanish flu hit. Please pray for Government and church leaders. For Japan Keswick, pray for more young people to be involved; and pray for the Osaka Keswick, which needs to find a good new facility for the Convention in 2021.





## Malawi

The Keswick Convention in Malawi has a long and strong history, and we are in touch with the team in **Blantyre**. They had to cancel their event last August because of political unrest, and they need our prayers as they look at how to plan for the future, and how to strengthen the work. Please specially pray for pastor **Vincent Chirwa**, the chairman, who recently lost his father, and is also leading the work at Blantyre Baptist.

## Malaysia

**Keswick Kuala Lumpur** had its second annual Convention for Tamil-speaking churches last October, with speaker Ivor Poobalan from Sri Lanka, with numbers up on the previous year. But the team has decided it will not be possible to hold the Convention this October because of Covid19. They ask for prayer as the country is struggling with the lockdown, specially prayer for doctors, nurses, police, military and others on the front line. They ask for prayer for the churches to come together, and for the ability to discern the movement of the Holy Spirit at this time.



## New Zealand

The Keswick Summer Convention in **Rotorua** attracted many families this past December/January, with over 400 present. They thank God for new land purchased, new staff, and an updated caravan site as well as updated website:

[www.keswicksummerconvention.co.nz](http://www.keswicksummerconvention.co.nz)

They face heavy losses because of Covid19, and ask that we pray they can retain staff, benefit from Government support, develop their strategic plan, and upgrade facilities. Please pray for wisdom regarding this coming summer's Convention, December 27 – January 2.

## South Africa

The **Durban Keswick** is held in September each year, and organised by the team at Jivannadi Events. Please pray for them, as they have changed their Easter event to a radio broadcast, April 10-12. They are not yet sure if the September Keswick event can take place: please pray as they assess this. The Keswick Convention has grown to become a much appreciated event for believers in greater Durban and KwaZulu Natal area. Please pray for their team, as they are also involved in many ministries and church activities, reaching out to needy communities.





## Trinidad

Give thanks for the continued work of the **North and South Trinidad** Keswick Conventions, and the desire to rebuild and strengthen the work, including the hopes of relaunching the **Tobago** Keswick. We have not heard news, but events may now be under review because of Covid19. Please pray for the committees, North and South, and for their continued hopes for developing the work.

## UK

The Convention in Keswick usually runs for three weeks (July/early August), but sadly the team has had to cancel this year's event. Please pray as they look at other forms of ministry. Pray also for the ongoing work of the **Derwent Project** – the restoration of the old Pencil factory and the development of the site, making it a home for the Convention and for year-round events. There are also nearly **40 smaller events** in towns and cities across the UK, and many of these must also cancel this year. Please pray for new ways of reaching believers and non-believers despite the loss of events. [www.keswickministries.org](http://www.keswickministries.org)



## Other events

### Please pray for:

The **Calcutta Keswick**, which attracts over 700 to its February Convention. Pray for the nation of India at this demanding time, and for the many believers serving the Lord in difficult situations.

The **South Florida Keswick**, which usually holds its event in May. Please pray specially for their hopes of involving younger people in the future.

The **Jamaica Keswick events: Kingston** celebrated 60 years this past January, and **Mandeville** is usually held in July – please pray for them, now that Covid19 has reached Jamaica.

## Hopes for the future

Please pray for those who are considering developing a Convention ministry. These include **Vancouver, Canada; Ukraine**; and possibly **Myanmar**. Please pray for partnerships with churches, for good local leadership, and for resources to allow these countries to launch new Bible teaching ministry.

**Thank you for your prayers! Please send this bulletin to your teams, and extract news for friends and supporters!**

**For further information, or for sending future prayer requests, please contact Jonathan Lamb:** [jonathan.lamb@keswickministries.org](mailto:jonathan.lamb@keswickministries.org)

