

January 2013

## Dear Friends

As we begin a New Year my message to you is: look forward, not back. Christian faith has elements of both, of course. We '**do this in remembrance of him**' as we share bread and wine, remembering the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. But, even as we do so, we have an eye to the future: '**until he comes again**'. We must remain rooted in Jesus Christ, His foundation but also His future.



John Hibberd

My concern is that the sub-culture we have then built in our churches, with which we are often quite comfortable, is often outdated and irrelevant to those around us who do not yet have a faith. We fail to notice this, except to note in a bemused way that it seems so hard to attract younger people. Why do we have such little impact nationally on the networking, Facebook, mobile, under-30 generation? Is it that they have all been lured away by the competing attractions the world offers? If this is the case, why is 'spirituality' still in vogue? Could it be that the vast majority of them have concluded that the church doesn't have anything to offer?

Look forward, not back! When you are tempted to utter the last eight words of the church, 'But we have always done it this way,' consider whether you are being faithful to the core gospel of Jesus or just expressing a personal preference. After all, God sent His Son for the people who are not yet part of our churches; those for whom perhaps changes are being proposed.

Look forward, not back! If we will do this, then the cause of the gospel can flourish again, even in our cynical agnostic society. What is needed in our land – and is already happening – is nothing less than cross-cultural mission. **God is raising up people who will take the good news of Jesus into the many different groups that make up our society** and allowing church to emerge, sometimes in rather different forms to those we expect. Those of us at TFM need to heed the warning, being willing to embrace changes in our approach where this will bring better engagement with our society and therefore greater fruitfulness.

Look forward, not back! Do not fear change. Fear instead the fear to change.

## Walk Cornwall 2: 21 Sep – 13 Oct 2013

My pilgrimage through Cornwall in July 2012 led me to Kelly Bray. I was enthusiastically welcomed at the Swingle Tree pub by people from several churches and we walked together to Callington for an evening service. This positive legacy from the Walk in 1993 has been repeated as a dozen TFM representatives, most of them Cornwall-based, have visited church leaders during this autumn. One of the locals wrote to me in an email, 'There is a completely different atmosphere here now, of the presence of God, than I experienced when scouting in Cornwall for the 1993 Mission. This looks like being a 'Bumper Harvest'!



Cont.

*How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10)*

Here is the huge potential – fields ripe for harvest – and the answer ... you! It is our very real hope that uptake for Walk Cornwall 2 will mean that we need to recruit 500 or more team members.

**Will you come as part of a team?**

**Maybe you came in 1993 and haven't been since then. Will you come again?**

**Could you recruit one other person from your church to come with you?**

**The TFM website carries details of training events around the UK.**

Yours in Christ

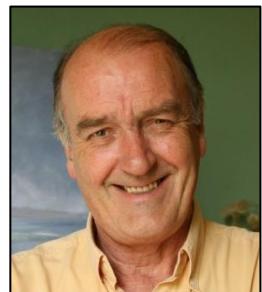
*John Hibberd*

Revd John Hibberd TFM Senior Evangelist

## A Message from Daniel

My dears,

This is merely a greeting. My heart swells with love for God and I want you to know that, although I'm not as busy, I am taking every opportunity afforded me to preach the Gospel and bring people to Christ. My zeal has not diminished though my energies, naturally, are not quite what they were. I am hugely looking forward to being on Walk Cornwall next year and Peter and I are also working very hard to get the Colne Valley Mission (in the Colchester area) up and running for 2014. We do ask you to pray for these missions. I'm still preaching regularly in some local churches and have the opportunity to go further afield as and when the call comes. My attention to Through Faith Missions is equal to what it has been in the past and I ask you to pray for John and his leadership and Roger as he recovers from his hip operation. Through Faith Missions remains on the biblical principal of calling people to decide for God today and linking this, of course, with all the process evangelism with which the country is flooded.



Daniel Cozens

I am looking forward to addressing you at our annual **Prayer Partners' Conference**, which will be on **29<sup>th</sup> June 2013**, and say genuinely, "I can hardly wait!" Stand by us. Come with us. Give to us. May this year be the very best for all of us? It may be that the Lord will return – let's use our talents.

God Bless you, loveliest of people.

*Dan*

Revd Daniel Cozens TFM Founding Evangelist