

THROUGH FAITH MISSIONS

in partnership with local churches
as they engage in mission

Newsletter



July 2017



P3: Annual TFM Conference



P4: Walk Uganda 2017



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Richard writes...

In John Ch: 6v35 – end, Jesus calls himself the bread of life who came down from heaven. Anyone who feeds on this bread will live forever. The Jews argued and grumbled amongst themselves at this teaching and even his disciples wondered who could possibly accept it? Jesus knew that his teaching would offend some - and that not all would believe. When many followers turned back, Jesus challenged the Twelve to clarify their position. Simon Peter confirmed their commitment: *‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.’* But even then, this was not the end of the matter. Jesus knew that one of them, described as a devil, would betray him.

I write this foreword, having just returned from an excellent mission in Uppingham. In the final weekend, I’d planned for George Martin to speak at the men’s breakfast. But it wasn’t to be; the Bishop of Peterborough had already been inked in!

So George was “transferred” to give the final address at the Celebration service the next day. He was nervous but God was with him as 8 people, from age 11-94, responded! I mention this not only to illustrate the need for flexibility on mission and that God works despite our planning, but because of what Bishop Donald said.

For some years, he’d been the spokesman in the House of Lords for North Korea. Having just returned from Korea, he described terrible gulag-type

labour camps, with prisoners dying of starvation, disease and over-work. Horrifyingly, one third of those interned, 100,000 in total, are Christians. Recently, a South Korean pastor was caught smuggling Bibles into the North. He was executed, along with all 30 of those who received his gift; the penalty for simply being in possession of a Bible in N. Korea is death. Furthermore, all family members a generation above and below those caught are incarcerated in a labour camp. Christianity is costly. On a personal note,



the bishop then described his pain at being “excommunicated” by his mother for switching at university from medicine to theology. Even on her death bed she did not relent, cutting him out of her will.

Following the breakfast, people remarked on the bishop’s situation. But for me, his struggles were unpleasant but minor compared to the situation facing our brothers and sisters in N. Korea - a country which Bishop Donald described as the most brutal for believers in the history of mankind.

Shortly after writing this I will have the pleasure of introducing our speaker at the Churches Together Pentecost Celebration in Thanet. I have heard Canon Andrew White, the Vicar of Baghdad, speak on two previous occasions. What struck me most previously was perhaps the most obvious point: that Sunday by Sunday, as he gazed on his flock, he had no idea who would be there the following week. In the UK, people can miss church for a whole range of reasons. Not so in Iraq. Missing means dead. Being a believer may cost you everything.

Not so, yet, in the UK. But at a training day in Purley recently, one lady came up to me over coffee with a practical question. “What if inviting a good friend to a home meeting risks our long friendship?” Of course, she’d partly answered her own question. It is a risk, but one well-worth taking. Her concern was borne out in Uppingham. Amidst the wonderful door work, home meetings and larger events came the less pleasant conversations. It can be a tough job convincing people that Jesus remains not just relevant but essential today in relatively comfortable Rutland. Science was frequently trotted out as a reason not to believe. Several atheists, a philosopher, humanist, liberal Christians and even theologians disputed our message. One female host at a dinner party was outraged that we should presume to take our message to those of other faiths abroad. Why not just leave people happy as they are? She needed to know that faiths aren’t equivalent; that Jesus is the only way back to the Father and that he came for all mankind, including the West. “And that’s why we’re here.” At which point, with steam rising, she snapped back, “yes, why are you here?”

This lady and many others last week made us think and helped sharpen our game. She was perfectly happy to bake cakes and sing songs in church, but Jesus wasn’t her Lord. Whilst we may not live in North Korea or Iraq, Christians are increasingly seen as exclusive and thus intolerant and out-dated and thus irrelevant in our multi-faith, pluralistic and frankly confused society today. Our job is to stand up, stand firm and be counted. Yesterday, I received a College of Evangelists newsletter. The headline article was from Bishop Martyn of Leicester. Challenging us to take risks for the Kingdom, he reminded us of how Abram risked everything in leaving his father’s household, his people and his country for a land that God would show him. And that he was blessed as a result.



Bishop Martyn then quoted a missionary, Oswald Sanders, who wrote this: “a great deal more failure is the result of excess caution than of bold experimentation with new ideas. The frontiers of the Kingdom of God were never advanced by men and women of caution.”

Bishop Martyn believes that the Church today is being called to take risks. To break camp and set out into unknown territory. This teaching is nothing new for TFM as Daniel has often preached Hebrews Ch: 13v13! But Bishop Martyn went on to quote a Catholic theologian, who in 1962 wrote a paper, entitled, “The Theology of Risk.” In it, he argued that the church then (55 years ago) was facing rapid changes in science, culture and technology and as a result was retreating to a safe position. Sound familiar? Instead, we are called to be courageous in advancing God’s Kingdom. Today, Christians must still demonstrate this “risk appetite.”

In TFM, are we still prepared to take risks for the Kingdom? To go on mission, when UK culture is becoming increasingly hostile? And not only to pursue the familiar, but to experiment in new ways of sharing our faith that we may reach new sub-cultures and take new ground? I’m delighted that we are exploring large missions in Anglesey, the Isle of Man and Ireland. These represent our core work. But I’m also delighted that we are exploring new ways of working. Joint missions with Roger Morgan are a case in point. aCross Britain mission training, done in a variety of ways, is also beginning to take off. Peter Adams’ dream of a Walk aCross Britain will be presented at the coming Prayer Partners’ Conference. I will be spreading the mission-training message during seminars at both the Abbeyfest Summer Conference in Kent and New Wine in Shepton Mallet. And we have a new man in Ireland! What will Jim get up to?

Plea: This is no time for caution. But my question is this: as God opens doors, we need more harvesters in the mission field. Over the years, our numbers have fallen, through age, retirement, joining other organisations and promotion to Glory. We have an active cohort of 150, including Ireland. In many ways, a relatively small but keen remnant is better than a larger army of peripherally involved believers. That said, we will soon, I hope, need an expanded army. In our Away team of 21 in Uppingham were two particular ladies. Sally Bolton, from Kent, hadn’t done a TFM mission for 17 years. Vicky Kelsey, from Yorkshire, was a first-timer, brought by Tom and Claire Robinson. Both loved the mission and hope to join in future missions.

We need more like Sally and Vicky!

- 1) If you haven’t done a mission for a while - please get in touch
- 2) If you missed last year’s training - please get in touch
- 3) If you can think of others in your home Churches who would really benefit from being a team member, please invite them to give the office a buzz.

Richard Scott



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TFM Annual Conference 10 June 2017

This year's annual conference was held again at Great Shelford Free church near Cambridge. We were pleased to welcome as our key note speaker Steve Wade, Director of Ministry for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in the UK. The day was opened by Daniel Cozens who spoke of making prayer our top priority. He reminded us of how Jesus took time apart from his busy schedule to be alone with the Father in prayer and so should we. He went on to highlight the need to overcome our reluctance to 'go out' and not to fall into the age-old temptation of the church towards insularity. His final point was to be moved, to have the heart that Jesus had for those who are suffering and for those who do not know him. He summed it up with; Get Alone, Get out and Get Moved.



Steve Wade opened by telling us he was a local boy having lived and gone to school locally and attended church in Cambridge where two of his contemporaries at church were Nicky Gumbel and Justin Welby. Like Daniel's talk earlier



Steve emphasised that our effectiveness as evangelists is built on a life of prayer, holiness and a love for others. He quoted J John who put it as 'Pray, Share, Care.' Steve, who had been involved with TFM for many years, spoke of a DNA within TFM of discipleship and the need to be preparing to pass that on to a new generation of evangelists who would continue our work into the future. He shared with us some results from the recent Barna group survey and highlighted results that showed the openness of the public to spiritual matters but also emphasised that they were often put off by the way that Christians spoke to them about their faith. He reminded us of the old statement, 'The lost don't have a problem with Evangelism, the church does.' His organisation had done its own research among church leaders concerning their difficulties in doing evangelism and a key response had been the need for training of lay people in this area. Many churches were doing great work in reaching out to people and befriending them through social action projects and other initiatives but were not succeeding in converting them.

Steve was able to share with us an encouraging picture of how much evangelistic work was going on across the UK, both by his organisation and others and spoke about a large initiative by Hope in 2018. He also reminded us of the importance of engaging with new technology and social media and using it as a tool for evangelism. His organisation worldwide had recently had its 10 millionth commitment to faith made through its website and their hope was that every church would have a clear description of the Gospel message on their website.

After lunch Richard gave us an update on the aCross Britain initiative. His initial contact with church leaders had emphasised the need for a flexible approach, one size does not fit all and there was a need to adapt what we offered to each



church situation. Some churches only wanted training while others wanted more including practical experience on the streets and support for a mission. Richard's recent experience of a mission and his work



with the evangelist Roger Morgan had reminded him of the importance of encouraging the home church team. The strength of the home team, which he suggested should be larger than the visiting TFM team, would determine how well the follow up to the mission was carried out and whether there would be a lasting legacy of evangelism by the church in the future. He closed by asking TFM members to pray about the possibility of a large mission in the future which would take the shape of a cross with missions from side to side and top to bottom of the UK. This was something that Peter Adams had spoken to Richard about shortly before his death.

The day closed with a time of prayer and worship. David Culhane led us in prayers of thanks for all that God had accomplished through TFM over the years. We prayed for the future work and direction of TFM including the thoughts of a large mission across the length and breadth of the United Kingdom mentioned earlier and our need for the financial resources to support this and all that God had planned for us in the future.

This was my first experience of evangelism abroad; it was also my first experience of Africa. It was easy to see that Uganda is a beautiful place, both the countryside and the hearts of the people who live there. Each week was a new experience: not only was there a different pastor and a different set up, but there were different languages spoken. Each week it was like stepping into a different part of the world as the temperature and weather changed, from heat and dust to rain and mud.

Week 1 was spent in Nakaseke, where we stayed with Pastor Daniel and his family. During this week it was a culture change. I needed to adjust to the heat, 29 °C at night, so just imagine the day time temperatures. It was difficult to get used to the idea of our hosts voluntarily washing our shoes by hand every morning so that we could look smart. I also struggled to adjust to the food and mentioned that I missed eating apples. The host picked up on this and the next day we had the most beautiful, juicy apples for lunch. I was embarrassed to say the least. These are only two small examples of their servant heartedness and how they felt it was right to look after us. I'll admit that I have been looked after beautifully by my hosts on missions over in the UK, but no one has ever washed my shoes, nor do I expect them to! We had gone out there to help the local Christians share and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ, but in fact I think that we were taught just as much if not more about true servant hearts and honouring God through the way we live.

During my time out there the team took part in night time crusades, door to door work, preaching, testimony sharing, healing services, prison, school and hospital visits and, in Week 3, with Pastor David Katende and his family in Ndejje, we made evangelistic appeals at a free medical clinic funded by the church.

Although you cannot compare weeks 1 and 3, and you certainly cannot say that they were similar, Week 2 in Kagadi, with Canon Eric Tweed and the Reverend David Cato, was completely different.



For starters, this week was run by the Church of Uganda, whereas the other two were with free churches, which led to the team having the opportunity to reach communities much further afield, on the outskirts of the diocese. These were communities who really were on the fringes and had very little. The temperatures were cooler, there wasn't so much dust and the ground wasn't quite as red. During Week 2 the team had the opportunity to visit very poor schools where they had more classes than classrooms. Many of the lessons were taught outside with a blackboard propped up in a tree, with few leaves to provide shade for the children. We even visited a school far enough out from the main towns that, when we arrived, the children were deadly silent, certainly not what you expect at a primary school - not how a school should be. I later found out that the reason for this silence was because the children had never seen a 'Muzungu' before, meaning that they had never seen a white person before. I cannot even begin to imagine what it must have been like to have been one of those children who witnessed five obscure looking humans stepping off a minibus at their school.

Although I and the team stood out like sore thumbs, this wasn't a negative attribute to have; in fact, we used this to our advantage. It was because we looked so different that the people we passed wanted to speak to us, to find out who we were, to ask where we had come from and many of the children wanted to touch us to see if they could rub away the white from our skins. As evangelists we tried to take advantage of this and to talk about Jesus wherever we went. For some this was much easier than for others. If you have ever met Martin West, you will know that he was in his element and took full advantage of the situation. For myself, it being my first time out in Uganda, in a foreign land where I really was just thrown into the community, to walk and talk through town where everyone acknowledged me, it took a little longer to get used to and to pluck up the courage to share with those I met. Once I had left my insecurities behind and started to integrate a little better, I was

able to witness and be a part of what God was really doing over there.

We saw hundreds of people, young and old, respond to the gospel message and appeal and it was really fantastic to see people you had witnessed to attend church and to get involved in the services on the Sunday immediately afterwards. Muslims came forward for prayer and several told us that they had said the prayer of commitment. God is really moving out there in a different kind of way. One of the reasons is because the people there view God in a different way, one reason being, because they need to depend on God to survive, they trust him and ask him. They also receive from him healings and financially. It was amazing to sit in church and to hear some of the testimonies people have of what God has done for them. One lady explained how she was in a lot of back pain and she wasn't able to lift anything; when she made a commitment to God, that pain instantly left

her and she has not had it since. A man was having pain in his head and it was bleeding when he made a commitment; the same thing happened - he was totally healed. Since being over there and witnessing and hearing of the power of God, not just reading in the Bible of the great things God has done and can do, I have started to pray differently. I don't only pray and expect it to happen: once I have finished praying I expect that it has already happened. I have found that my prayer life is stronger and I have seen God do more.



Even if you don't feel evangelistically inspired or you don't feel like you have a call to work out in Africa, I would honestly say it is worth going out there to witness what God is doing, to see the way the people out there live their lives, and it will change you for ever. I know that that is a rather clichéd thing to say and I don't mean that you will start to upgrade your phone or your car less often, or that you will stop wasting so much food. I mean that you will really start to believe that God can and will do the things that the Bible tells us that He can and will do; you will start to respect Him and call on Him in a deeper and more personal way. Or at least that is what I have found. I am grateful for the experience and it has intertwined its way into my evangelism here in the UK. I am more confident in God being there with me and knowing that actually all I have to do is try, and God will do the rest. When you look at it that way, evangelism is pretty simple really.

Roger writes...

Jill has recovered well from her knee replacement operation and I thank you all for your prayers. In recent times it has been a case of 'quality rather than quantity' as I have spoken at a number of one-off events and have seen many respond to the Lord which has been heartening. Locally down here we have seen some men come to faith at local events, and also in Seaford at the Easter services. The youth work in Newhaven has been hard but a blessing as we have grown now with two groups meeting on Sunday evenings. Also, during April, it was great to gather all our family together from New Zealand and Canada. We enjoyed some great times together and we miss them very much. A lovely outcome is that our eldest grandson Thomas is now studying at college for full time ministry in New Zealand carrying on the legacy! We had a good



mission in Bexhill and you can read about it in a report on page 8.

At the recent TFM annual conference Jim Fleming was able to come over from Belfast to join us. I spent a few days previously there and am so pleased that he is starting his new job with us on 1st August. He will be two thirds a community evangelist on the

Killicomaine estate, Seagoe, near Portadown and one third with TFM as an itinerant evangelist working with me on missions in Ireland. Please pray for Jim, Janet and family as they transition into his new role. We have one or two good opportunities developing in Ireland which we need to discern as to the best way forward.

Looking to the future there are some missions coming up in the autumn and next year in England and Ireland, as well as an increase in local invitations down here on the South coast. Finally, it has been great to see Chelsea restored to their rightful place as Champions!!

Roger Murphy



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Alive - Uppingham & Belton Mission May 2017

The 8-day mission in Uppingham and Belton, involving the Anglican, Methodist and Congregational Churches, also took in the surrounding hamlets of Wardley and Ayston. The training weekends in January and March had been well supported, with 46 locals trained initially and others joining in later in March, alongside a handful of TFM-ers who either couldn't attend previously or who'd been recruited since. This gave us a decent platform for a mission in which the Home and Away teams blended seamlessly. Under Geoff Thompson's able leadership and with Peter Cannings heading up "mission control" in his home opposite our base in the Methodist Church, the mission was better organised than any I'd ever been involved with to date.

The mission had been preceded by five years of prayer. Prayer-walking, by both locals and ourselves added to this and gave us a feel for the place. Every house had been leafleted and with further advertising on the radio, in newspapers, at the opening night's pantomime and in the market-place, the word had gone out adequately that the "Alive" Mission was in town.

This mission was very much Uppingham-led. Doing things their way, the task force and local ministers eschewed our usual set-up in which our teams are attached to individual churches, preferring to see us as one combined Away team of 21. This reflected the excellent inter-church relationship with Uppingham & Belton, but gave us some logistical challenges! Nevertheless, overall it worked well, allowing us to worship with locals in a large morning group, to draw from a larger cohort for particular events and Open House meetings and for locals to get their message across to all of us in one fell swoop. And with mission control directing door to door and receiving our response cards 2-3 times every day, follow-up was facilitated, avoiding the second Saturday afternoon syndrome of pressurised hand-over with which I'm only too familiar!

Another difference was that the Commissioning service was

delayed until the first Sunday morning. This allowed us to begin the doors on the Saturday afternoon, but had the disadvantage of merging team commissioning with the first Sunday mission preach. However, Methodist Minister, Leo, did a great job in interviewing firstly Sam Buchanan and then myself. This allowed Sam to give his testimony; many of us had never heard about his experience in the army in Ethiopia, during which time he personally witnessed men being crucified. You could have heard a pin drop as he went on to explain how he became a Christian during a similar mission to Cornwall. Whilst realising that it's a huge mistake to speak after Sam, I tried to build on what he said during my interview. One lady of 94 responded afterwards that she'd finally begun to understand that Jesus is God.

The mission included the usual elements of doors, home meetings and bigger events. Both the home meetings and the large meetings challenged our folk as belief in God was slim and Jesus' exclusive claims weren't always popular! How to answer atheists, a militant humanist, a philosopher and many others putting their faith in science isn't easy. But Sam's story and that of others e.g. the lady who testified at my God and Cancer evening to the power of prayer in surviving 19 years with an inoperable Grade 4 brain tumour,

counters the doubters. Another lady in the audience, who'd lost a son to a brain tumour, spoke of how her faith had been shaken but she'd come through. We met a man at his allotment who, in answer to Q4 of the questionnaire, told how his great friend had survived 20 years with a terminal cancer. People need to hear these stories; but they also, like this man, need to be gently reminded that having answered their prayer, God is worth following. And whilst not everyone sees it that way (I'm reminded of the man whose son aged 4 had leukaemia, but who rejected prayer during the mission), there are so many people out there who long to be reconnected with their God.

Whilst we had no school assemblies, the week saw some great children's meetings. Both 'Open the Book' and 'Messy Church' in Uppingham and Belton went swimmingly, with new TFM-er, Vicky Kelsey, proving a real whizz here. The Uppingham Children's Choir evening also went well, with Sally Bolton using her experience in Christian education and music to the full. Thanks also to Claire and Tom, whose heart for Belton came through to both children and adults.

The final weekend saw Bishop Donald, of Peterborough, speak well at the men's breakfast (see "Richard writes"). We then completed the doors on the final Saturday afternoon, leading into a Healing and Wholeness service. One of the highlights, though, was still to come. On the last day, bathed happily in sunshine after a somewhat wet week, a Celebration service was held in a marquee on the local green. Following interviews with both Home and Away team leaders, George Martin spoke. He was very nervous, reminding me of words spoken by Mike Pilavachi the previous weekend in Ramsgate. Taking his text from Peter walking on water, Mike said that in the heat of the moment, so often we feel like drowning. And that's just the moment that Jesus reaches out and hauls us out of the depths. This wasn't Peter's failure, but instead, his greatest moment. Who else walked on water?

George spoke on the decisions that farmers have to make in life. By extension, we are all faced



with decisions. Eight people, from age 11-94 responded. A great end to the week, but very much the beginning for the home team, who have 70-80 to follow-up. Responders were mainly from the doors, but also some from the Open house meetings and larger events. Thanks to Robert Parker for taking on the task of making sense of our 502 completed surveys! This is what they revealed ...

- 53% believed in some kind of God - with 36% seeing him as personal
- Only 3% disbelieved in Jesus' existence; but who he actually was led to much confusion
- And similar uncertainty applied to what happens after death
- But now for the good news: 70% had prayed or had a spiritual experience
- And only 15% didn't want to know God personally. 85% either would definitely like to know him (46%) or weren't sure (39%)

To my mind, these results not only encapsulate people's spiritual confusion, but also provide us with much hope.

In his interview at the Celebration service, the local task force leader talked of "moving the needle", shifting people along their spiritual journey. I believe that this will have applied to hundreds of people this week. With 15% of all those spoken to desiring follow-up, there's much out there for the local team to do and for us to be positive and hopeful about. There are five follow-up courses planned.

Finally, the last word goes to Brien Wilde, an ex-TFM-er who joined us at the Celebration event. During the service, he had a picture of a pebble dropped into a huge paddling pool of water. No ripple emerged. Instead, it led to a huge wave washing over the edge into surrounding territory. This fits with another man's picture of a wave of the Holy Spirit passing through Uppingham. The pebble represents the mission this week in Uppingham - a small town in the smallest county (Rutland) in the centre of England.

The churches in Uppingham are planning to discuss the mission at their local Anglican Chapter very soon. I hope that a mission into next-door Oakham will result.

Richard Scott



Giving



My heartfelt thanks for the kind generosity of all those who have dug deep into their pockets since our Giving Appeal was launched. I'm particularly grateful in the light of the obvious

headline needs that bombard each of us daily. Heather and I formed "Drs. Scott Projects" in 1995 after returning from Africa and it is always a struggle to know how best to use the resources that God has given us. Who needs the money most? How can one relate the need in Manchester to that of Syria, or famine in East Africa to needy Christians suffering persecution around the world? And in the face of appeals from big charities e.g. Tearfund or Barnabas Fund, why should TFM's seemingly minor financial issues even register on your radar?

As I write this, the mission to Uppingham is over but Bexhill is just about to begin. There are many missions out there, planned and being planned. Not forgetting single talks, seminars at conferences and training weekends. Walks in several places - Anglesey, the Isle of Man and West Ireland - are under discussion. The desire for people to learn about Jesus and for others to share faith better continues unabated.

This work may appear less spectacular or urgent than feeding the hungry, supporting the oppressed or showing compassion to those suffering at the hands of extremists. But the Second Greatest Commandment, loving our neighbour, doesn't just apply to alleviating physical and mental hardship. Spiritual deficit is so prevalent here in the UK. If the lost are to fulfil the First Commandment of loving the Lord their God, they first need to hear the Word (Romans 10). So whilst I urge you to keep supporting other charities - please don't forget the vital work of TFM.

So far, your generosity has increased our regular income slightly, but also, wonderfully, provided something north of £50,000 in one-off giving. My understanding is that the Lord doesn't provide what we simply want. Ferrari prayers tend to go unanswered! Instead, He responds to need. I can only surmise that your generous giving means that we need the money to fund what remains to be done. As God opens doors, we need more staff to do the work. I'm delighted that we've already taken on Jim Fleming. He's effectively our Minister of Missions in Ireland. That's great - but we need one in the rest of the UK too! Backed up, preferably, by another full-time evangelist, in turn backed up by increased administrative capability in the office. Until you responded, these remained pipe dreams. They are now possible.

Plea: Your one-off giving has been stunning! Far exceeding our expectations, we can proceed with interview, rather than putting job applicants on the back burner. But the financial life-blood of any organisation lies in its regular giving. Being honest, the increase in monthly giving has been relatively minimal, less than we'd hoped. I'm not being greedy here! It's just that one-offs by their very nature are not usually repeatable.

Could I ask you therefore to dig a little deeper? Those who haven't yet considered giving monthly, please add us to your list of worthy recipients. And those who already give, could you add an extra £10 to our coffers per month? I'd love to see us back in the Glory days with 6 full-time evangelists beetling about the country, spreading the Word. With God's blessing and your continuing help, so much more is possible.

Thank you again for everything thus far. Now, let's go again ...

Richard Scott

Contact Us?

Please tick a box below and complete your address details.

- I wish to become a Prayer Partner
- Please note my address change or email address below (need old address also)
- Please remove my name from the mailing list
- Please send me the weekly email Prayer news (need email address please)
- I enclose a gift to support TFM's ministry (Cheques to Through Faith Missions Ltd or go to www.throughfaithmissions.org/giving for online giving options).
- I want to gift aid my donation
- I would like to remember TFM in my will. Please send details.

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'Anchor of Hope' mission

at Living Word Church,
Bexhill on Sea,
from 31 May – 4 June

A TFM team comprising Roger Murphy, Pat Webster, Valerie Jacobs, Roz Haycock, Terry Saunders, Tony Fitzpatrick and David Culhane arrived on Wednesday in Bexhill at the Living Word Church in good time for a meal and a commissioning service. The programme involved door to door on both Thursday and Friday with a Quiz night, a Film evening, a breakfast, a fun afternoon on the esplanade and a thanksgiving service. The church members were fully supportive and they came out on the doors with team members. The events went well, especially the open air on Saturday afternoon where we had face painting, games, a Christian magic man and Roger sharing the Gospel with presentations to families with many children impacted, while the team were engaged in 1 to 1 conversations all around the immediate area. Sunday morning was a real Pentecost blessing with a number being led to faith and being filled with the Spirit! There were 10 positive responses/commitments plus 3 from the doors. The mission was locally planned and implemented by Martin West, a regular TFMer whom many knew as it was his church. Please pray for Martin and Rev Dale Barrett as they follow up on the contacts made and run an Alpha course which had a mixture of 16 attending the first meeting – a real encouragement for all.

