



in partnership with local churches
as they engage in mission

Newsletter



December 2020



P2: The Office



P3: Ministering in Covid-19



P3: Walk the Way



P4: Wiggenhall St Germans

Tim writes ...

So how do we live now? Amid all the anxiety and fear, the restrictions, the constantly evolving instructions and alarming statistics?

Matthew 24 is perhaps an unlikely place to turn – being the chapter that is full of upheaval, darkness and death. But the important thing to note is that at the end of that chapter Jesus tells us how to live in dreadful times – and it's actually very simple. He tells us to get on with the job – get on with living, speaking, and being Jesus in your home, in your street, in your town.

Through Faith Missions has been very busy – and we have noted that wherever we go, people want to talk about faith, about life and death, they want to hear about Jesus, they want someone to pray with them – the fields are indeed ripe unto harvest!

It's not been easy – TFM has become adept at learning and adapting at short notice – and the outlook remains 'uncertain, at times arduous'. So I am



Huntingdon training in January (pre-lockdown)

enormously thankful to all of you who have worked with us, stood with us, prayed for us – I sense that this new life we are moving into will be, spiritually speaking, both more difficult and more fruitful, and your continued support will be vital as we seek to do all that God has laid before us.

Talking of which – I have been greatly encouraged by a number of churches ringing TFM and asking us to work with them – these are churches that have responded to the crises with great faith and courage and it's a pleasure to stand with them and help them in their proclamation of the Gospel.

If you would like TFM to come and help you – just let me know!

God bless

God bless

Tim



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A view from the office

At the conference in June (still available via the website if you missed it or at <https://vimeo.com/432872327>), I introduced 3 topics: the office location, finance and staff matters. Here is an update.

The Office

After being based in Coton for over 30 years, it's time for TFM to move. Our lease has expired and, for legal reasons, we cannot extend it. We have received notice to vacate the office by 8 Jan 2021.

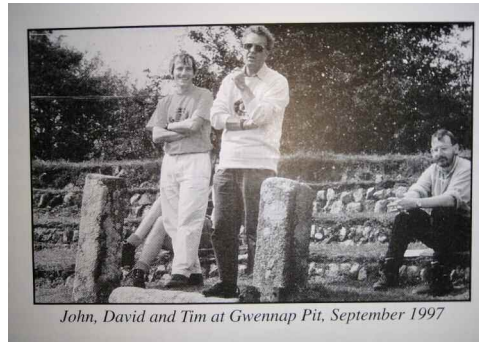
We don't have a new location to move to but we ask you to pray that we can find somewhere soon. Our vision is to establish a new base that could be used for team training. Realistically, it must be roughly in this same area, or slightly NW, or we will have staffing issues. Much prayer needed!

Finance

On the one hand, I wonder why we worry about this as God continues to provide for all our needs. Indeed, we have not seen any fall in income through this year, something we know has been a problem for many ministries. On the other hand, we know that we cannot be complacent. So again, we ask you to pray with us that we will continue to walk in His service and that He will provide to cover the work. A move to new premises will, of course, cost us more!



*Pictured above:
The Office*



*left and below:
David Culhane*



above: Denise, in the middle, on the Two Rivers mission

below: Tea and cake to say thank you



Staff

Our team is growing smaller! In recent days we have said a farewell to Denise Frisby, our Finance Manager. She was due to retire in April but stayed on to help but finally left in September, although she probably wonders if this is actually true as we (I) keep asking questions! Thank you, Denise, for the wonderful part you have played in the Team for over 12 years.

In her place we have contracted with an accountant's firm to oversee our records with myself taking over the day to day responsibilities (steep learning curve).

We are also in the process of saying 'Goodbye' to David Culhane. David has been with TFM since forever and it is almost impossible to describe the contribution he has made. He progressed from being a Team Member to honorary staff member and has organised and led many missions and played a crucial role in scouting churches for Walk missions. David is now stepping back as part of a planned withdrawal as he and his wife, Judy, move from their home of many years in Surrey to live closer to family in Devon. Personally, I have known David for only the last 12 years and have valued his quiet leadership and wisdom. I'm sure that he will continue in the background for some while yet.

David Baslington

***'I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith,
so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.' (Philemon 6)***

As this unusual year draws to a close, we at TFM give thanks to God for our prayer partners and supporters, for another year of faithfulness in prayers alongside us: from staff illness to office uncertainties, from adapting to lockdown challenges in outreach (via Facebook and personal phone calls) to first TFM virtual mission – Light 2020, from engaging with disconcerted churches to stepping out again in faith, your faithful prayers and support have helped us keep 'Missioning through Faith'.

May God continue to encourage us to be active in sharing our faith with others, so that we may have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. Amen.

Ministering during Covid-19

"Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves." (Matthew 10 v 16)

In the last month I have led teams to (Wessex Christian Fellowship) Basingstoke and (St Georges) Barnsley respectively. These were not 'run of the mill missions'; we navigated the unique challenges of Covid and its attending government guidelines right up until we arrived in the mission locations. Once there we dialogued continually with the hosting church leader(s) through the mission activities. Each mission started with a training that we concertained into the mission programme.

We were blessed with the weather; God sent us unseasonably bright sunshine which cheered us on when we had a challenging day. It was so much easier to do door knocking (socially distanced) in the sunshine. We got stuck in with all our usual ministries: door knocking, marketplace evangelism, praying for businesses, worship on the streets and delivering our 'peace' and 'love' cards. We also put out a lot of online material but often it was live services simultaneously live-streamed.

In both locations we had smaller teams than usual, but this gave us the chance to get to know each other and the local leaders and congregations at a deeper level. We bonded through the intense experience. Sadly, in Basingstoke two team members had to go home mid-week after their host's daughter was ill for a day.

In both Basingstoke and Barnsley God is building trust and growing relationships for the sake of His Kingdom. Watch this space for bigger town wide and even area wide missions across churches and denominations. God has been very faithful to us, after very fruitful ministry. He has brought us home without infecting anyone or being infected with the virus. By God's grace we only left the fragrance of Christ!

Please visit our website or Facebook page to view our brand-new video 'TFM ministering through Covid'.

Dan Holland



Walk the Way

I always knew there was something so right about this walk – the timing, the organisation, the going out with nothing.... And now I know another reason why this is so right:

We can look on the requirements to leave phones behind, travel light, carry no food as negative – even reckless.

Or we can look on this as an incredible opportunity to spend time with God – no distractions, no intrusions from the world – it's just Jesus, you, the team and what/where He leads you.

And now, more than ever before, we need to be so close to God that we might know and hear where He is leading us in this broken and fractured world.

So gather up all your courage, sign up and get trained (or come along to a training day first... and then sign up) – see what God will do with your time dedicated to Him.

We need Prayer Warriors, we need Team Members – not just you, but your friends, too.

Last time I did this, I ended up becoming a vicar...

Tim



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.

I authorise TFM to contact me as I have selected below

- Post Email Phone

Name:
Address:
Postcode:
Tel:
Email:

By supplying the information above you are authorising Through Faith Missions to hold the data supplied and contact you as selected. You can change these preferences at any time by contacting us at the address below.




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Wiggenhall St Germans

The Team came with some trepidation. For some it was the first Public Outreach since lockdown and we were uncertain as to the welcome we would receive. But God is always right when He leads, and we were encouraged by communications between the Vicar (Martin Dale) and Bishop. Teams always take a few hours to settle down and it was natural that questions be raised regarding Covid and our response both personally and as a team. These were soon answered in a positive way with that lovely trust in the Father that overflows and provides the glue to a mission.



The team shared over lunch and dinner with hosts in their homes and gardens, worked many doors with largely welcoming responses, led a beautiful healing service with few from the village yet many prayer requests, met in bubbles of 6 at the pub to eat with a lovely welcome from the landlord and finished with a traditional Harvest service in Church. We joined Mark, the Lay Reader, for Prime and Dan managed (on his first mission with us) to land time in a hot tub! The response from the village was quietly beautiful. We had so many conversations, recognising God encouraging those with flagging faith, and we were all lifted simply by going out to serve Him.

Typical conversation, a lady said she had been thinking about faith, she stopped going to church a year ago, her response on the door, "I think you may be here for a reason!" There were the usual "Not interested" answers but outweighed by those who were keen to talk and ask questions, some of which led to praying on the doorstep for everything from an upcoming holiday to the health of a child. These are all moments on the journey for each person and leave the fragrance of Jesus hanging in the atmosphere. God's presence....

Sunday morning brought villagers and regular worshippers together for the Harvest and it was indeed a Harvest.....of Souls. All of our work during those few days followed by George's words on 'Why become a Christian?' lit the touch-paper with, praise God, 13 people responding to the call to begin or renew a relationship with our beautiful Living God!

The joy within the church was palpable, the faithful here had been praying for the mission and their part in it – they now have the task of continuing with follow up and encouragement of the new believers and one another.

For me this was a fantastic 3½ day mission (that felt like a week!), with the sense that the Team was there to help the local church: TFM doing what TFM does best, not taking over the outreach but enabling local church to be Jesus to its local people, providing the encouragement to step out and share our own stories.



Covid's voice,
while noisy and threatening,
is as nothing
compared to the
Roar of the Lion of Judah.
God is Good...All the Time.

Georgina