



Daniel writes ...

I write with a couple of real concerns on my heart at present but before I express them I would like to say that there have been some changes in TFM. However, rather than spell them out here, in this Newsletter, I want to have the opportunity to explain them at our Prayer Partners' Conference – 'our annual encouragement day.' I am a preacher not a writer! The day is an important milestone in our history, as it is the 20th Anniversary of the first Walk. Now our diaries are heaving with missions of every kind, as well as Walks, taking us up to 2014 – God willing. I am concerned, but terrifically excited, by the vast opportunities facing us. During the day I will be speaking about the marvellous leading that I received from God and reflecting very, very happily on all that has taken place since. Please come if you possibly can, it will also be just before the 40th Anniversary of my ordination – a milestone if ever there was one.

One concern that bothers me is, "Where are the Evangelists?" or, "Where are the preachers who call people to make a decision to follow Christ?" We need, in this day and age, to make people certain that their sins are forgiven, that they are reconciled to God, their names are written in heaven and they have eternal life. There's too much talk these days of the 'journey of faith'. I'm not saying that there isn't a journey but I am asking, "When are they going to 'arrive'?" It seems as though Evangelism is only preached as a process, rather than a crisis and there are untold thousands in our churches who have

absolutely no assurance that they are 'saved', to put it in old fashioned language! When Paul speaks about the journey he is on (Phil 3 v 12ff) he puts it like this – "Not that I have already obtained this, or am already perfect but I press on to make it my own because Christ Jesus has made me His own." The journey that Paul is on is expressed in v.14 "I press on toward the goal, for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." We must believe that people can be converted at their first time of hearing the Gospel, as indeed I was. At a Conference some years ago the speaker before me said, and I quote, "It takes eighteen times for a man to hear the Gospel before he can make a decision." I followed him and thanked him for his remarks and said that, "whenever I preach I presume that this is his nineteenth and it's time he made a decision!"

You will notice time and time again, within the New Testament, that people were converted after their first encounter with Christ. This is the faith of the evangelist and this is the understanding we have at TFM.

A second concern is the darkness of our society, the lack of Christian substance in our laws and the dreadful

sense of our nation being lost to God. It's becoming something of regularity that Christians are paying the price for their ethics. It's verging now on the saying in Isaiah Ch 5 v 20 'woe to those who call evil good and good evil'. Never has there been a better time to be 'outside the camp' and we need even more new ways, revealed to us by God, to reach our nation. I don't sense an animosity toward the Christian faith but the last Government and the media have contributed to the mayhem of morality.

We are the salt of the earth, we are the light of the world, never has there been a greater time when we need to spill out and shine out.

Fifty people attended our Preaching School Day in January. It was a day of much enthusiasm, a real take up by those who want to become evangelists, especially some of the younger members and we are now planning for Workshops in early summer so as to train folks in preaching evangelistically.

All of us in TFM can echo the joyfulness of seeing many come to Christ. As I write so my heart is full with the marvellous provision of God in every respect. I wish I had a million lives – I would give them, without hesitation, to Jesus.

Onwards and upwards.

Yours in our Lord Jesus,

Daniel

Dan in Dorset



Farewell to Jonathan

Jonathan Mortimer, Associate Minister of Missions, will be leaving TFM in May and returning to parish ministry. Daniel writes;

"I first met Jonathan at Oakhill College in 1989. He came on the 1st walk and on every other walk since then. If I can put it like this, I had my eye on him from the very beginning and that is why I eventually managed to get a 'yes' from him to join TFM 4 years ago. Now, sadly, he is going. He's a man of terrific abilities, a real teacher of the faith. He displays wonderful people skills and, above all, he has been a delight to work with. We shall miss him terribly. I will in particular.

"Of all people, I can understand the pressures he has been under. Away from home at great length; the challenge of constantly meeting new people; the travelling, different beds, to say nothing of the domestic loneliness of a wife who is married to an evangelist. I perfectly understand that and he gave this task his very best.

Jonathan will be keeping in contact with TFM as his diary permits and we are glad. Being somewhat older than Jonathan, I can say of him, as Paul said of Timothy, 'I have no one like him'. Godspeed you, Jonathan and Ruthli. The prayers of everyone at TFM go with you."



Jonathan writes:

Moving on but staying put.

"Being here is one of the highlights of my year." "It restores my confidence that God can use me, and it brings me closer to Jesus." "I don't know a better discipleship training course than this."

These are just some of the sentiments expressed to me on mission weeks since I joined the TFM staff team. I've experienced the truth of them myself in the past, and I plan to do so in the future. Because whilst I am sadly saying good-bye to the post of full-time Associate Minister of Missions, I will be keeping on in the same way as many of you do now – as a prayer partner, a team member when I can, and as one who thanks God for all the ways He uses TFM throughout His Church.

At the end of the day, or rather at the end of nearly four years, I have sensed in my spirit a call to return to parish ministry. The grass is by no means greener over there. I'm more aware than ever of the pressures on church leaders, especially in the Anglican communion where some parishes now include 10 congregations or more. But it's where I feel called by the still, small voice of God that does not go away.

The 'itinerant' is one who moves from place to place. St. Paul had that role and in the New Testament he sometimes relates the difficulties he faced. Strange to relate, I have had in my time no shipwrecks, imprisonments, snake bites or whippings. Going hungry has also not been a particular problem. Had it pretty easy really. But life on the road even in the civilised comfort of the 21st century brings with it certain pressures. To face them requires strength renewed day by day and the encouragement of the Spirit, especially when working in places where encouragement is a rare commodity. It also requires a great calling for

what is a great job. It may be that calling is now for someone else to take over from me, but no doubt in a different way.

As Bill Hybels, the leader of a church called Willow Creek in Chicago put it, "The local church is the hope of the world when the local church is working well." That's happening when the Holy Spirit is at work, and fortunately He is. Including in the most unexpected places and in the most unexpected people. Every week I have seen signs of that, sometimes easy to overlook like treasure buried in the field Jesus once described. There have been the moments when God brought hope to a struggling congregation wondering if they could keep going another year; when He spoke powerfully and palpably through the testimony of a team member who had never said a word in public before; when men sitting on the fence for years gave their lives to Christ at a men's breakfast; when exactly the right number of volunteers came forward to fill every team for another Walk mission.

TFM's ministry of mission, encouragement, sowing and reaping is to my mind a unique gift for the local church in Britain. This is God's work, begun with Daniel, that will continue for decades to come. I look forward to being a part of what God is doing.

Vienna half marathon

Before he leaves us in May, Jonathan is running a half marathon for TFM. Anyone who would like to sponsor him can email or write to the office here in Coton, or contact him direct (mortimerj@btinternet.com). Any money raised will go to TFM's general funds. The race is on 17 April in Vienna.



Since recovering from an injury last year, Jonathan has been in training and competed in several cross country races for his club. This one, he says, will be a good deal harder. "13 miles on roads will be a challenge. But nothing compared to my brother in law, Berni, who's also at the start-line and running the full marathon. It will be the 100th time he's done that distance - and I thought I was keen!"

MARK'S GOOD NEWS



Nicholas Maude,

Reader in our Benefice, will narrate the whole of St Mark's Gospel

After the first performance, in Edinburgh, the actor Sir Alec McCowen wrote:-

"I was so impressed by your performance of St. Mark – and especially by your energy and love of the script"

Why not come and hear the performance for yourself?

Tuesday 19 April at 7.15 pm

**St Paul's Church, Ashford Hill, Newbury,
RG19 8AZ**

Plenty of car parking and no admission fee

All proceeds from this event are to go to TFM

Roger writes:

We now seem to be emerging from the long hard winter and look forward to Spring and Summer. I enjoyed missions in Rathfriland, NI over the Remembrance Sunday weekend and a village mission in the Ray Valley near Bicester. Our work in the Bicester villages meant that we had missions in four deaneries covering approximately 40 churches as John Hibberd and I headed up the work with TFM teams. December was largely decimated by the cold weather, but I have been back on the road in the New Year, mainly preparing churches for mission in and around London, a mission in Dublin and preparations in Dorchester and Weymouth for Walk West Dorset in September.

A few snippets of encouragement

- The barman mentioned in the last newsletter is going on with the Lord in a follow-up situation.
- At some home meetings, people made responses to Christ and one lady who just knocked on the door of a friend, came into the group and shared a loss she had recently and made a commitment.
- At a youth night, 5 teenagers responded.
- Some bereaved families from outside church made a response.
- During a town remembrance service, 8 men responded to Christ.
- Two couples at a baptism tea showed great interest to find out more about following Christ.
- On an estate army barracks, many were open to Christ, and some responded during our door to door work.
- At a quiz, a lady with a dog wandered in half-way through and made a response at the end!
- At a home meeting several ladies found faith in Christ after some good discussions and questions.
- At a men's breakfast in a local pub, four men responded to Christ, plus the landlady who brought her breakfast in to listen.
- We had a great mission weekend in February at St Mary's Dagenham with the minister and church folk who were really up for mission, indeed it broke out with around 15 responses!! Their first quiz night in the local pub was a hit with around 50 people coming and one lady with 7 guests – 3 responded!! On Sunday morning there were more guests and more responses – Praise the Lord – we are eagerly planning a return in May!!

As we look ahead to Walk West Dorset in September we see many opportunities to share the Gospel. At the time of writing this, there are some interesting developments at deanery level across parts of the country for missions.

The family are well. Jill and I continue to serve the Lord at our church on Warwick Gates and minister at the Well Christian Healing Centre where we see God at work. Chris and Abbi are well in Canada and Chris is really enjoying his work with young people. Abbi has a church community job at present and has

loved the constant snow. They are both returning to the UK in April for a wedding so it will be great to see them again. Carol and Andy and the boys are well in New Zealand. Thomas is now a teenager!

My team Chelsea has been rather up and down this year – rather like my hips – I have good phases and some not so good. Going along OK at present, but covet your prayers in this area!

Ireland

In 1995, on Walk Ulster, I went back to Ireland for the first time in many years and have had an ongoing love of mission work over there ever since. During that first mission when I was posted in Coleraine where my father came from and where my remaining relatives lived, it was a special time as I led my uncle Dougie to the Lord amidst much joy and celebration in the family.

Since that time I have had the privilege of leading around 100 missions across the land which have seen hundreds of people come to the Lord and have resulted in many lovely stories.

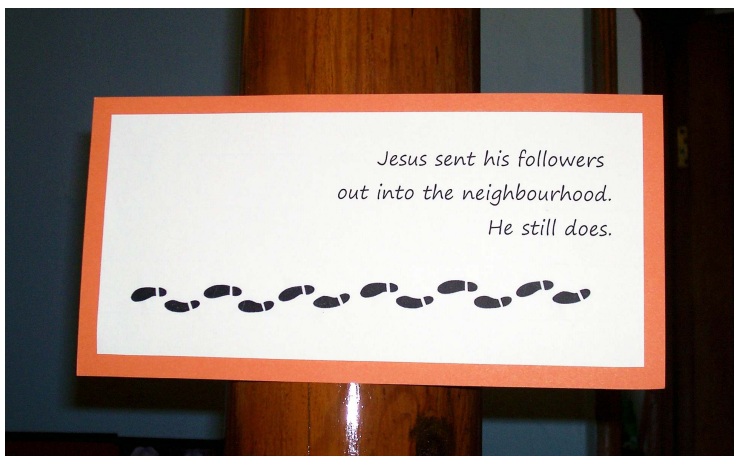
The special relationship goes on with more missions booked through to 2012 and beyond.

Stratford

When London won the Olympic bid for 2012 and it was going to be centred on Stratford in East London, I was contacted by Rev. Dave and Carol Richards from St John's to share a vision for outreach during the Olympics.

During the last three years we have been working in partnership with the local churches in Stratford to train local churches and members in evangelism and to reach out to the area. When we first gathered the leaders together we reminded them of the Great Commission to go out and make disciples of all nations – but on this occasion all the nations would be coming to Stratford!

Last year we enjoyed seeing many people respond to Christ during the Ultimate Goal mission during the World Cup in June. This year we have had a good training weekend to train up to around 70 locals to be team members and will have a four day outreach from 7-10 July as a pre run for 2012. Next year we will have a local team and visiting team (around 30), a preparation weekend in Feb/Mar, and a 24/7 outreach during the Olympics from 27 July to 12 August.



West Belfast Mission @ St. Columba's, Highfield Estate

Wed 26 - Sun 30 January

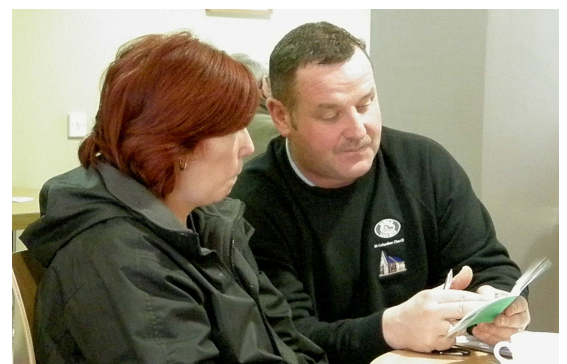
Many thanks to all our email prayer partners who prayed for Daniel Brady and Rodney Adamson who led a team of members from the combined N.I. Evangelists' Associations on a Belfast Outreach with primary school assemblies, door to door, personal belief surveys, plus some pub work and various meetings at St Columba's, West Belfast with Rev. Dr. Chris Easton.

There was a real openness to the Gospel and over two thirds of people surveyed said they would like to know God personally. Some members also had a productive meeting with the paramilitary leadership. Lots of local people came to the Open Day on the Saturday [see photos below] and to the Sunday morning service. Please continue to pray for Rev. Chris Easton as he tries to develop and grow this church.



Please also pray for a further work in the summer, which will continue the outreach of the church around the estate and with the young people who have few facilities.

Pray too that existing and new church members will join in this new venture to bring the love of Jesus to their community.



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.....

☐

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..... or go to

☐

www.through-faith-missions.org for online giving options).

☐

I want to gift aid my donation

I would like to remember TFM in my will. Please send details.

☐

Name.....

Address..

Postcode

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Web Page

www.through-faith-missions.org

Walk Web Page

www.walkwestdorset.co.uk

Walk West Dorset Update

At the end of January TFM ran two Church Briefing Days in Lyme Regis and Weymouth, attracting 80+ local Christians (ministers and congregation members). The aim of these days is to equip and enthuse churches for mission. People attended from all the main towns (except Dorchester, which has an event close by in March) and also 3 village groupings. It's great to see the buzz of conversation that develops as groups of churches discuss the presentations and begin to visualise what impact the Walk could make in their town or village.

We combine these Saturday briefings with a visit to the host churches on the Sunday and the deployment of Mission Preparers. I went to the Melbury Team, which looks after a large number of small villages with 16 churches in a beautiful inland area of Dorset. Jonathan was in Lyme Regis, David Culhane in Charmouth and Ross Healey in Bridport. We are now deploying our other "MPs", some of whom will link up with churches at the March briefing event.

This is quite a small area but it's encouraging to see that most places (bar some villages) will have a team during the 2-week mission. Task Force members comment that this part of Dorset has never seen anything like this, so please pray – for an impact, for the renewal of the Church, and for many to find a living faith in Jesus.

John

John Hibberd



St Mary's Corscombe

PRAYER PARTNERS CONFERENCE

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WALKS

Date:

Saturday 18 June 2011

Venue:

Swavesey Village College, CB24 4RS

Time: 9.30 am – 4.00 pm

Cost £5 per person

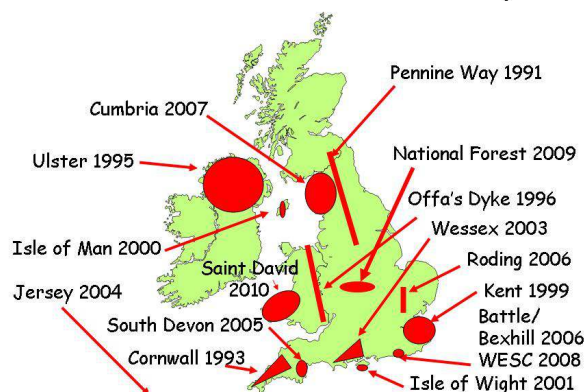
Please contact TFM to register your place.

Guest Speaker:

Bishop Geoff Pearson,
Bishop of Lancaster
"Bishop Geoff has been a
TFM Prayer Partner for more
than 16 years and has served
on 3 Walks, most recently in
2007 in Cumbria."



Walk missions - history



WALK KENYA 2011

5 January saw a team of seven flying out to Kenya, for two weeks evangelism amongst the Maasai. There have been a series of such missions since 2002, and each one has been very fruitful, both in the lives of the churches and communities that have been visited, and the lives of the team members. A week was spent in the village of Enkongu Enkare, visiting homes and schools, conducting a church teaching seminar and participating in Sunday worship. (We arrived at 9.00 am. and left at 3.00 pm.!) A good number of people made a response. Interestingly the pastor bemoaned the fact that many men hold the Lord at arms length, viewing the church as a matter for women and children. Perhaps we had not travelled such a distance after all!

One highlight was a lady, visited in her home one day, who was non committal. Two days later she made a point of being at a neighbour's house when she was visited, because she wanted to give her life to Christ.

A second week was spent in the village of Kisiriri, thankfully higher and cooler, where we followed a similar programme. The generosity and dedication of local Christians is truly humbling. In both locations, families effectively moved out of their homes to provide accommodation for the team.



Just as churches are usually encouraged and stimulated by the visit of a team at home, so it is in Africa – only more so. Sharing with the local Christians in outreach and fellowship counts hugely – such that home team and “mzungus” are all encouraged and challenged immensely.

David Rhodes

Walk Kenya Team:
David Rhodes (leader),
Sheila Hughes, Peter Sacre,
Linda Berry, Jan Brown,
Paul Brown and Sheila Williams