

NEWSLETTER



Taking on the baton P2



Roger writes... P4



Walk It Out 2011 P7

DANIEL WRITES...

At the last Annual Prayer Partners' Conference I announced that I have handed over the leadership of TFM to John (Hibberd).

This came about as a gradual conviction that manifested itself at our 'Awayday' in Hoddesdon, just before Christmas 2010. I had been praying for guidance for two years and we all experienced the sense from God that the timing was right.

In the words that a Bishop says to an incumbent, I said to John, "This is your ministry and also mine."

I am, as you are aware, still fully involved. In fact, at many times I have been just as busy as when fully employed. I still take engagements but (have learned?) am learning to say, "No". Many of you will echo with me the effects of Anno Domini; add to that Diabetes and the increasingly busy roads and horrible driving conditions, which all take their toll.

Being home with Gillie, more often than ever before, has felt like a reward. We have, as any itinerant will tell you, been parted repeatedly for many years whilst establishing the ministry of TFM and conducting hundreds of missions. Our home, as I've often said, is like 'The Inn at Bethlehem', we have a constant ministry here and more opportunities are opening up locally.

Nothing, absolutely nothing, is as wonderful on the face of the earth as winning souls for Christ

Meanwhile I am trying, even yet, to come to terms with preaching and going away less, but have come to realise – like a man on a hill looking down on his orchards – what a truly wonderful and satisfying life I have had so far.

I must say, "Nothing, absolutely nothing, is as wonderful on the face of the earth as winning souls for Christ" and this I will continue to do, I trust, until I reach Heaven. I am deeply, deeply grateful to God for His salvation and the massive abundance of His leading and provision, especially in those 'hard' places.

We have 'lost' quite a number of saints who have gone on to Heaven and my concerns run deep for the Church of England in particular.

This ministry must forever 'Go out', forever live by faith, forever be courageous and forever preach Christ and Him crucified

However, I am glad to say that TFM is robust and bookings for Missions and 'Walks' stretch into the future, whilst requests keep coming. I shall, for the next two years or so, be up front leading the Walks as ever. I am looking forward, God willing, to Dorset and then Cornwall (2013).

This ministry must forever 'Go out', forever live by faith, forever be courageous and forever preach Christ and Him crucified. It must be a servant ready to do anything at God's command and under John, Roger and David I believe it will continue to fulfil that calling.



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TAKING ON THE BATON



Valuing the past

I have been at Through Faith Missions since 1994 but my association with Daniel goes back further – to the first two Walks and even a mission in 1985. The Pennine Walk was genuinely one of the highlights of my curacy, though I hasten to add that it was a good curacy! Over the years it has been great to learn from Daniel, Peter and other colleagues and to work in a supportive team. Holy living, reliance on prayer and going out to people with the gospel have become part of my evangelism DNA. These things, along with a radical dependence on God, characterise TFM and must continue to do so.

Facing up to change in the present

As someone once observed, however, “There is nothing as constant as change.” When I began at TFM my computer did not have a hard drive, we didn’t use email, and I don’t recall TFM having a website! More significantly the style of our missions has had to adapt to a changing culture; no longer, for instance, the long tent missions that happened in Colchester or Chelmsford.

We have also added SCE as an arrow in our quiver, taking seriously the biblical call of Ephesians 4 that evangelists should not only use their gift but equip others to do so too. I am proud, in the right sense, to note that some SCE graduates have been real specialists in certain areas of evangelism, e.g. reaching spiritual seekers.

change with continuity

In December staff and trustees met to pray and discuss the future of TFM. Daniel expressed his desire to step down but remain very much involved; this gives him the freedom to work part-time and travel less.

The unanimous view of those present was that I should take over the Lead Evangelist role in TFM and we have been transitioning towards that over the past six months, Daniel publicly announced this at our Prayer Partners’ Conference last month. I personally see it as a team leadership with Roger and other colleagues including Daniel.

Looking to the future

Change can be unsettling to some. Despite the fact that our faith “makes all things new”, the Church has a tendency to be conservative! To those of you who might be concerned about this change let me offer the following thoughts. This is change with continuity. I have reiterated some guiding principles and also written of my history with TFM to remind you that many things remain the same, notably our central focus on evangelism and our core principles. New challenges are, however, unavoidable. History is littered with examples of places, civilisations and organisations that did not foresee change and became irrelevant. Think of the times you have been on missions and found that the church building is now in the middle of nowhere! We face all sorts of issues today, notably ignorance of the basics of Christianity, relativism about faith, and a crisis in numbers of children and youth in our

adapting to proclaim the gospel in the best way we can

churches. Within TFM we are conscious of the ageing of our team member workforce (partly reflecting the Church, of course). Responding to these challenges may mean changes in the way that we engage in mission and we are looking hard at recruiting a much younger evangelist who can help us to see this with fresh eyes. It would be premature to say how this will all shape up but the guiding vision is that the unique ministry of TFM should continue into the future, adapting to proclaim the gospel in the best way we can for this generation and beyond.



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All change!

Welcome to our new design of Newsletter. This has our new branding which includes a redesigned logo with other graphics all coordinated with our new website which you can see at www.throughfaithmissions.org.

Also with this newsletter you will have received one of our new leaflets. We would really like you to make good use of this. Please give it to someone whom you think might be interested in our work either as a supporter or as a team member. Or how about giving it to your church leaders and suggest they invite TFM to lead a mission in your town!

We are indebted to the work of our designers ChurchInsight (Endis) for the work they have done for us, coordinated by our new Media Coordinator Mike Watts who has made a terrific start and set a high bar. Not forgetting also our layout designer, Ann Gildersleve, who has produced our newsletter for many years. Thanks to all.



Mike Watts joins the team

Mike joined the TFM office team in January 2011, working two days a week as Media Coordinator. Previously, he spent 28 years in automotive research before taking early retirement. Since then he has worked for

various charities putting his IT skills to use. Outside of TFM Mike is involved in his local Anglican church helping to run the Men's ministry and leading the marriage preparation team as well as helping out in the management of a local residential youth centre.

Mike's role within TFM is to look after all the printed material, our website and any other media related items. His first few months have focused on developing a new website, a new leaflet and newsletter format. The aim has been to produce a fresh new look suitable for both printed and web material that will translate well into larger images for banners and signs.

If you have not yet done so please visit our new website at www.throughfaithmissions.org we would welcome your comments on the style and content. Email them direct to Mike at michael@throughfaithmissions.org. The old website at www.through-faith-missions.org will be kept operating for a while but will eventually be removed and this web address redirected to the new site.

In the coming months Mike will focus on extending the new look across all of TFM's printed material, further developing the website, adding an area for members' resources and adding more video and audio content. We also hope to look at reducing costs by producing an email version of the newsletter for those with internet access. In the long term TFM wants to keep a watch on developing media trends such as Facebook and Twitter and consider the use of these as appropriate to further our work.

Holy Week mission to Whitwick

We were invited to take a small team back to a place originally visited during Walk National Forest. David and Sally Roff, Chris Roe, Paul Knight and myself were the team and our main activities were children's work with a Holiday club on two mornings with sports and other activities most afternoons, door to door visiting with a community based survey rather than the usual TFM one and a few other

It was a good, encouraging mission

activities. We took part in a Palm Sunday procession (with a pony rather than a donkey) and a Good Friday pilgrimage as well as attending a few events organised for the week. We left the church, St John the Baptist, Whitwick with quite a few folk to follow up from the door to door survey. It was a good and encouraging mission with a handful of people from the church joining us on the doors and giving testimony at one or two of the events.

David Culhane



Prayer Partners' Conference

Saturday 18 June saw the gathering of nearly 200 people for the 23rd annual Prayer Partners' Conference under the heading 'Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow'. The day opened with a time of worship led by Bill Getty and Grace Saunders followed by an address from Daniel, who spoke about handing over the leadership of TFM to John and Roger: John, in Daniel's words, having 51% responsibility. This split was further discussed later in the day when a panel of speakers took questions from delegates. Daniel encouraged the staff team to seek God for the work of the ministry, taking days alone with God seeking his will and urging us to follow the model of 'Faith, Prayer, Do It'. He emphasised that Jesus sent his disciples out with nothing and to the hardest of places. We too needed to follow this example.

follow the model of 'Faith, Prayer, Do It'

Bishop Geoff Pearson, who has joined TFM on Walks in Ulster, Kent and Cumbria, then spoke on 'The value of the walks', emphasising the importance of going out to where the people are, reminding us of Jesus' words to "go and make disciples of all nations." Mike Watts, TFM's Media Coordinator, gave a short talk on the new design for our logo, website and printed material. Graham Perryman gave an update on preparation for Walk West Dorset and the morning session closed with an extended time of prayer.



In the afternoon John Hibberd made a presentation to Jonathan, who has now left TFM to return to parish ministry and to Daniel who received a bound copy of the journals from the first five Walks to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the first walk. John then went on to speak on 'Picking up the Baton', choosing as his text Acts 10 v 9-29, the need to be bold in moving forward. He reminded us that life and culture is changing rapidly and we must move with it if we are not to be left behind. He suggested that our ministry must be both 'Reactive' and 'Proactive', citing as examples Deanery

sized missions, younger evangelists, weekend missions and ongoing partnerships.

The day ended with an update from Roger on Stratford preparing for the Ultimate Gold mission during the London Olympics and closing words from Daniel.

Away for the day

The Trustees and mission staff met for a day and a night in December 2010, to pray and discuss many aspects of the work of TFM.



From left to right; Ian Silk, Tim Hall, Richard Scott, Daniel Cozens, George Martin, John Hibberd, Jonathan Mortimer, Peter Adams, Roger Murphy, Robin Whitworth, David Culhane.

ROGER WRITES...

It has been a good time 'on the road' again, returning to Dublin for the 'Count Me In' mission was good with around 80 responses with 25-30 attending the subsequent Alpha course.

The 'Going Further' mission in Bispham, nr Blackpool at the end of March also went well. Chris Booth and the local team had done a really good job organising the event. We had a TFM team of 7 of us there all weekend, and 4 others came for odd days from the local evangelist associations – so we were well represented. We did a lot of door to door work which was a real blessing especially as it did not rain during the days – praise the Lord – despite an earth tremor on one night and thunderstorm on the next night. I had the pleasure of leading a couple to the Lord in their home and the team also saw another three make commitments on the doors, so that was good. In all there were around 50 responses with a good number attending the follow up Christianity Explored course.

It was good to be in N. Ireland again and meet again with a minister who has just moved to Maghera where we will be doing a mission in October and catch up on a mission we did at his last church three years ago in Dungiven. There was a tremendous response to the gospel with 70 people on the Alpha course and he said he had kept on visiting people who made a commitment to Christ during the mission, so praise the Lord.

Some highlights for encouragement:

- At a healing service there were a couple of hours of prayer ministry at the end with folk coming forward with all sorts of needs.
- **Home meetings were well attended with some great discussions.**
- There were a high number of folk from differing religious backgrounds attending many of the meetings.
- **A great evening in a local home, a lovely meal and after dinner talk by the fire saw a good number respond in faith.**
- An afternoon after-schools event saw around 70 plus young people from school attend with many of the older ones making a response to Christ too.
- **On another evening we saw two bowls clubs coming together and a number of people responded.**
- The men's breakfast was well-attended with six men responding to Christ.
- **An all-age food fair was well attended with a great opportunity to share with the general public.**
- At the final evening café service there was a time of ministry and prayer and filling of the Holy Spirit when many came forward for prayer and at least two men made a response to Christ.
- **One person came up to me and said that everything had fallen into place and wanted to thank me for the mission.**
- At a quiz night there were a number of young people who made responses to the Lord.
- **At a men's breakfast six men responded to Christ – some for the first time.**
- At a Senior's tea, it was a special time with some ladies who I spoke to afterwards who were moved to tears.
- **At the Sunday services there were responses, many for the first time and in the evening we had a good ministry time with many folk coming forward, including some teenagers.**
- One older man came to Christ at a men's breakfast and is getting married to a Christian lady – it's never too late!
- **In school we shared the Gospel with over 300 teenagers, including an impromptu lunchtime session which attracted over 100.**
- At an open air, around 50 teenagers gathered to listen to presentations of faith, and at a concert over 15 responded to Christ.
- **At an event a lady in tears shared how the message was so relevant to her situation and touched her heart.**
- A café event attracted 30 men and four responded to Christ.
- **At an all-age service people responded from 6 years to 70+.**
- At a youth event the minister heard around 10 teenagers repeating out loud the prayer of commitment.

We had a great four day mission at St Mary's, Dagenham with Paul Woodman the escapologist and myself with the local church team, which included schools work, all age worship, open air, healing on the streets



for the first time, youth music and drama concert, quiz night in the pub, men's breakfast, ladies' pamper night and Church on the Park. There were over 40 responses to the Lord and a START course and Youth Alpha have begun.

I have had some very profitable trips to Weymouth and Dorchester to meet leaders, help planning groups and speak at services in preparation for Walk West Dorset in September. In Dorchester itself it looks as though we will have 3 teams including 3 days in the prison and for Weymouth we will have 4 teams, including 3 days in the Verne prison, and 2 days in the YOI.

I have been invited to lead an area mission for the Worthing churches in June 2012, so plans are being made for a number of churches to come together to reach out to their communities. There may also be another group of churches in an adjoining area wanting a mission in September.

Our partnership with the churches in Stratford is growing as we are planning a four day outreach from 7-10 July this year which will be a pre-runner for the events to be held during the Olympics next year. Our aim is to utilise the open air space at St John's from mid-day to late at night with on-going presentations of the Gospel using local bands, youth acts, rappers, musicians, singers, choirs, Open Air Campaigners and others. We also hope to use many of the local church members on the teams, who have been trained alongside the TFM visiting team to be available for one-to-one conversations, prayer ministry, witness and follow up contacts.

There will be a host of other events around the area by local churches and sharing at night in the pubs and cafés. This is an exciting venture and we would value your prayers.

Family

It was good to see Chris and Abbi back from Canada over the Easter period and hear news of how the Lord is using them both in Toronto.

Carol and Andy and our grandsons are well in NZ and Andy's job situation has been resolved and he will work more locally with youth and schools in Auckland.

Jill and I are fine and celebrate 40 years of married life together. My hips are much the same but I would request your prayers so that I may function well on the missions ahead.



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The Word on the Street:

7-15 May

"On behalf of everyone at St Andrew's can I express our sincere thanks for the help, support and inspiration the team gave us." So wrote Chris Casey, vicar of one of the three churches with whom we had a great mission week in Whitehaven. There were some really significant encounters on the doors with people to follow up.

There were responses too at events, including two men at the disability sports night. Emma Whittick spoke at an all age service in Moresby. She writes, "One girl came up to me to ask me for a booklet and said 'Emma can I talk to you about Jesus please?' I talked her through the Me+Jesus booklet and she said that she prayed and meant the prayer from that booklet that I'd prayed at the end of my talk." Team member Anne Barlow wrote, "A young man, aged about 16, was helping on the ladies' pamper night. As he was about to get a lift home he dashed up to me and asked for a KGP. At a coffee morning next day his girlfriend's mother told me that he had said the prayer in KGP and was very excited." People signed up for the Christianity Explored course that the churches are running to follow the mission.

**thanks for the help,
support and inspiration
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Events were mostly well attended. A highlight for me was to speak and give an Indian cookery demonstration to about 70 people at St Andrew's, the vast majority of whom afterwards took the special leaflet I had prepared for this event. We also had a Medieval Feast there at which I contributed to the "jester session" and then also spoke after the meal. Much of the mission had a historical theme, celebrating 400 years of the Bible in English. We used this in the schools where we did an extensive programme of assemblies and lessons. The content of these was superb, having been prepared by a former teacher on our team, and greatly appreciated by children and teaching staff. This also fitted in very well with the special assembly at Valley School where the children were presented with their own Bibles by the local church.

John Hibberd



Walk West Dorset Update

Please pray for this Walk mission. At time of writing it looks as though we will have 6-7 teams in Week One and 12 teams in Week Two. These will cover all of the towns in the area and a good number of the villages. We also should have access into all three prisons in the area. Recruitment has gone well and it looks as though we have enough team members already.

We need to encourage them

I would ask you to focus your prayers on the churches and their preparation. You may know that TFM puts a lot into the preparation, urging churches to see the Walk as a process rather than just a week of mission. We put on briefing events and also have deployed Mission Preparers in each mission centre. The aim is to encourage the churches to really make the most of the Walk, to fully employ the teams and to use Walk West Dorset as a springboard to further mission. I am concerned, therefore, that some places do not yet seem to have planned much beyond extensive door-to-door and deploying the team on events that would have arisen in the mission week anyway. Sometimes this is due to sheer pressure of on-going work but it can reflect fear about the E-word among congregations or a lack of faith that anything will happen. As the apostle said, "God has not given us a spirit of timidity..." We need to encourage them to sow generously if they are to reap generously.

The Prayer Day at Eggardon Hill (2 July) will be a significant moment to commit this mission to God in prayer. We hope it will see a good turnout from churches across the Walk area.

John Hibberd



Out and about in East Grinstead

The 'Reach out' mission, 7-15 May, did what it said on the tin – the Anglican churches of St Swithun's, St Luke's and St Barnabas had been praying and planning meticulously for this week of connecting and communicating with the local community, and it showed. Come the end of the mission there was great fruit and encouragement for all three congregations.

Talk with any locals in East Grinstead, and one topic commonly crops up - apparently the town is where so-called 'ley lines' meet. These conduits of supposed mystical power may be the reason why so many sects and groups such as the Church of Scientology have their headquarters nearby, many of them actively reaching out into the local community. Our mission week had at its heart the message of power of another kind.

One of its distinctives was an exceptional turn-out from locals joining the TFM team of five. Well over 30 people came with us to the various pubs visited along East Grinstead High Street, and in the survey work on door-steps. They are enthusiastic to carry on doing more of the same, inviting others from the churches to come along also. One reason so many did so during the 'Reach out' week was because they had been on TFM training events held locally and gone home inspired. "That training took the angst out of going door to door or into pubs in our own town. We could then tell others in the churches that this sort of evangelism worked", said one of the local planning team.

there was great fruit and encouragement

Highlights of the week included Charlie McEniry speaking at the large men's group at the Monday curry night, telling how God had turned his life around from drug addiction; then on Saturday morning, Daniel spoke at the men's breakfast of God giving His only son, and our need to respond. Several did just that. The week included two midweek services when prayer for healing with the laying on of hands was offered, several well attended coffee mornings, the Night of Colour and a Messy Church event drawing in many non-church families.

One reason for the fruit from all the events was clearly the prayer which had been going on for many months beforehand. Another was that this week was in many ways not so very different from the normal rhythm of parish life, albeit with services and events given an added evangelistic emphasis, alongside the addition of some new initiatives. Finally, the planning group and the clergy team had prepared the way brilliantly. The five of us from TFM were there simply to join in what God through His people had already started long before.

Jonathan Mortimer



Walk It Out 2011 – Loup City

John Lillyman, our good friend in Nebraska, USA has led another team on mission and this time they were joined by our own George Martin, Chair of Trustees for TFM. John writes;

"Heading into our fifth walk mission into rural Nebraska were the words from Luke 5.4 paraphrased as "push out into the deep for a catch". Unique to this walk was that we had our largest team of men, sixteen, with eight churches represented from our home town and beyond. Even more unusual to the team was that we had an Englishman, George Martin representing TFM, who brought a tremendous sense of God's love in his demeanour, his wisdom, and his joy and laughter. The men thoroughly enjoyed his company and many locals got to shake hands with a real Englishman for the first time! We saw many lives deeply touched by our encounters. As always these encounters were not limited to the non-churched community. I believe the local churches, many of which are small and struggling, were encouraged and spurred on. I know of two young men who gave their lives to Christ. I know of a couple, who felt they were misfits, welcomed into the Sunday service and even stayed for lunch. I witnessed a visiting missionary to orphans in Mexico blessed by the men sacrificing their comforts to seek and save the lost with a passion and heart similar to his own.

I could go on and on. Over and over I can testify that God is blessing the men and the communities who take these simple steps of faith and walk out the Good News to the country lanes and little towns that often get overlooked by evangelistic events. The harvest is truly plentiful!"

We praise God for John and all he does.



George is far right in the photo, John is 4th from the right.

MAASAI WALK 2012

TFM has been invited by Pastor David Kereto to work with him on a mission in January 2012, a week in Olorroito (further north than usual although we have been there before) and a week in Ntulele (lowlands, a new place for us). The overall time will be about 2½ weeks, starting around 5-8 January. Costs are now £1000 or a little more (flights etc.). If you are interested, please contact the office or email: john@throughfaithmissions.org

John Hibberd

TFM at New Wine 2012

NewWine
Local churches changing nations

TFM are considering attending New Wine, the Christian Conference held each summer. The idea is to promote TFM in what's known as 'The Market Place' during the 2 weeks of 21 July - 4 August 2012 at New Wine, Shepton Mallet in Somerset. Most people who come to New Wine camp in tents or caravans and there are lots of talks, seminars and worship etc. We would probably need 16 TFM volunteers working in pairs, 8 for the first week and 8 for the second. TFM would provide all the material and cost of the stall. Volunteers would pay as normal to go to New Wine and give, say, one third of each day, to tell people about Walk Missions and encourage them to join us.

Volunteers would have had to have taken part in a Walk Mission. Perhaps you've never been to New Wine. Perhaps you are a regular and go with your Church each year. Either way we'd love you to join us. Just think what could be achieved if we increased the number of harvest workers. If doing this is of interest and you would like to find out more please email Chris Watts on ck.watts@ntlworld.com or phone after 7 pm on 01483 874724.

New items to purchase



Daniels' Postcards

10 different designs in
2 separate packs of 5
£4 per pack inc postage



20 years of the Walks Anniversary mugs

£5 per mug inc postage

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.throughfaithmissions.org 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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