

NEWSLETTER



Roger writes... P2



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Walk West Dorset P6

RUNNING THE RACE

Biblefresh produced an excellent set of Advent reflections called "Running the Race", written by the More Than Gold team to help us to prepare for the Olympics. Being a keen (if rather slow!) runner I have been using these in my daily prayers. The verse I am going to keep before me as we go into 2012 is:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us" (Hebrews 12:1).

By the time you receive this it will be early February – too late for New Year's resolutions but not for determining to follow Christ purposefully in 2012. How can this Bible verse help?

Perseverance comes from training, day in day out

Your call. Every Christian is called by God to be different and to make a difference. The race is marked out for you by Jesus, the pace-setter whom we follow. Perseverance comes from training, day in day out. The athletes you watch in the summer will have put in hours in the dark and cold. The spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible study, fellowship and worship are our equivalent. Neglect them and you will lose stamina for the spiritual race. Are you using each of these to keep close to Christ?

Your burdens. Serious athletes remove every unnecessary gram from their equipment (and their bodies) to gain their competitive edge. In Pilgrim's Progress, Christian moves so much more freely when the burden of sin is loosed from his back at the cross. So what is holding you back at present? Some sin you hold on to? Or distractions that keep

you from all that God had made you to be? Throw them off like an athlete who knows he or she simply may not touch a "banned substance".



Your support. When you run the London Marathon the support of the crowd feels as though it gives you 20% extra strength! Daily Christian living sometimes feels more like training – on your own, head down. The background to this passage is Hebrews 11, full of stories of faith; these are the (unseen) "cloud of witnesses" to spur us on. Read that chapter and see what they overcame. You can live and witness for Christ! Please also consider how you can continue to support TFM. As we "run" through 2012 we'd love to see more people sign up to our weekly prayer email. It would help to have more regular financial support as we try to make the most of the opportunities God has given us. Hear this important reminder too: we may not have a Walk in 2012 but we still need lots of team members for other missions, so please join us again.

Finally, the Olympics and the Diamond Jubilee present great opportunities for Christian witness. TFM has the mission in Stratford, East London, right on the doorstep of the Olympic stadium (read Roger's article) but you can also get involved or set up events in your own locality for each of these major celebrations. With every blessing for 2012.



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ROGER WRITES...

I spent 2 weeks leading teams during Walk West Dorset. During the first week in Dorchester, the teams worked particularly hard but much of it was door to door and street work which can be hard. However, there were around 30 responses and another 15 in the prison so that was good. Both ladies' nights were well organised with a good response at each. I had the privilege of sharing with people on the streets and led a few to Christ and prayed with many more – some from Dorchester and others from various parts of the UK. A couple of interesting stories:-

- I was conducting a faith survey on the streets and the person was wanting to know more about the follow-up course which was being held in a local pub. As I was telling him about it, the course co-ordinator walked by at that moment and I was able to immediately introduce them! He was amazed.
- I was walking along the road when two young teenage girls around 18/19 stopped me and asked me what the footprints on my back were. I explained that there was a ladies' pamper night coming up at a nearby church. They asked if they could come and both turned up early and were the first two to respond to the gospel and sign up for the Alpha course – no church connection whatsoever. Isn't God good!

Paul Woodman and I went into Dorchester Prison and most of the men responded to the message and the Chaplain is following them up.

During the second week in Weymouth, the weather was glorious and some responded to Christ. Some stories:

- At a men's skittles night, five men responded to Christ.
- At a ladies' lunch an older lady said how much she had enjoyed the event but did not respond in any way to a leaflet or follow-up material at the time. However, a couple of days later, I met the same lady on the Esplanade who said she had been thinking carefully about my message and wanted some literature to follow it through.
- On the Saturday one of the churches put on a men's breakfast whilst we watched the England v Scotland Rugby World Cup match. There were around 40 men there of varying ages and some responded to the challenge to follow Christ.

I did a lot of one-to-one work on the Esplanade which was very busy and had some remarkable encounters with people. I was able to pray with many and lead a few to the Lord.



The Upgrade mission



Held in Maghera, N. Ireland, it certainly lived up to its name as over 120 adults plus 20 children responded to Christ, many for the first time. The follow-up is going well with a large number turning up for the 'Christianity Explored' course.

The mission was well supported by the church and community with some big turn outs and responses. A series of small group meetings allowed people to explore the meaning of faith with many making commitments and we had the privilege of praying with many people coming to faith and being healed. A good number of men responded.

We had many opportunities to lead school assemblies and kids' clubs which culminated in a good family fun night with parents responding to faith. We also had contact with many teenagers with 10 responding at one event. The mission managed to reach people outside the church and also across the community.

During November I led three mission preparation weekends in Northern Ireland which have all gone well and have laid some good foundations for the missions coming up in the first quarter of next year.

A busy year lies ahead with 3 NI missions before Easter in very different settings. The first in Dromara is set in the heart of rural Ulster with a good programme. The March mission in Drumcree is a sign that things are changing with a new desire to reach out to the community with the good news of Christ. The Holy Week mission in Craigavon is an outreach to a tough estate where many folks have great needs, so we look forward to that. We have missions in Worthing in the summer culminating in the Olympic outreach in Stratford East London in July.

Jill and I have had a mixed year, as Jill continues to face some challenges with her job which are currently being resolved. Health wise we have both had niggles with muscular pain throughout the year and have also faced a lot of spiritual opposition. However, we continue to see many people come to Christ so it is to be expected!!

Stratford Olympics – A once in a lifetime opportunity!

We have been working with the Stratford churches for the last three years in training, mission and outreach. In 2010 we worked together on 'Ultimate Goal' during the World Cup and 2011 we worked together in the summer on the Ultimate Dream and we saw many people respond to Christ. This year, we are working together in outreach for the Olympics 27 July – 12 August.

We are planning ongoing open air presentations in St John's Churchyard from 12 noon until late and are partnering with Share Jesus International who will be supplying singers, dancers and various acts from all over the world. On top of that we have the Open Air Campaigners and our own escapologist from the UK as well as local talent from the Stratford area itself.

Local churches will be providing hospitality and outreach centres with their own events and we will also be visiting the local pubs and cafes.

There will be a training and launch weekend on 3-5 February when we are planning to train up to 200 people in preparation for the Olympics. There will be various seminars and Sunday services culminating in a commissioning service on Sunday evening 5 February.

The Great Commission commands us to go out with the good news of Christ to all the nations. This year in Stratford, we have the unique opportunity of having all the nations come to London. For more details, please see our website and the Stratford Churches Together website.



All across the UK we would encourage the local churches and evangelists' associations to get involved in putting on events in their area to take advantage of this unique opportunity of having the Olympics in the UK. Please check out the 'More than Gold' website for ideas.



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Chippenham Deanery Mission

In May 2012 TFM will be returning to Chippenham in Wiltshire to take part in a two week mission. This builds on a previous mission with the North Chippenham team of churches in 2004. The mission has the title 'Flame of Hope' picking up on the Olympic theme and the Hope that Christians can share in a world where it is sorely lacking. John Hibberd will be leading a small team walking each day from village to village providing focused events for the mission fortnight. Settled teams will carry out the usual mix of events and schools work along with the aim of bringing hope to as many doorsteps as possible. A Ugandan choir from the link diocese will bring a world-wide angle to the mission. The mission support team is led by Andy Gubbins, the Deanery Missioner, who has an imaginative prayer strategy for the event in place.



We are looking for team members for both Week 1 12-20 May and for Week 2 19-27 May. If you are interested in joining a team please contact the TFM office. The latest information on the mission can be found on our website at www.throughfaithmissions.org/flameofhope

Daniel Cozens – Artist

Some of Daniel's paintings are available on his own website www.danielcozensartist.com.

Cards and postcards will also soon be available from the website as well as the TFM office.

Proceeds from sales are tithed to TFM.



DANIEL WRITES...

Jesus said, in the Sermon on the Mount, "your heavenly Father knows". (Matt 6:25 – 34). He knows who we are, what our needs and wants are, our weaknesses and all about us and He wants us to be free of anxiety. He tells us to "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all things will be added unto us". Remember the night of the last supper? Jesus said, "I have said this to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." John 16:33

As He spoke these remarkable words, He knew that the next night He would be dead! We look around us now, as they did then, and wonder if this or that will bring peace, but only God can give us real peace. I would say also that there is nothing wrong with lovely things. I enjoy painting, for instance, to produce what I hope will be beautiful works. But as I have often said on 'Nights of Colour', I paint from peace not to find peace.

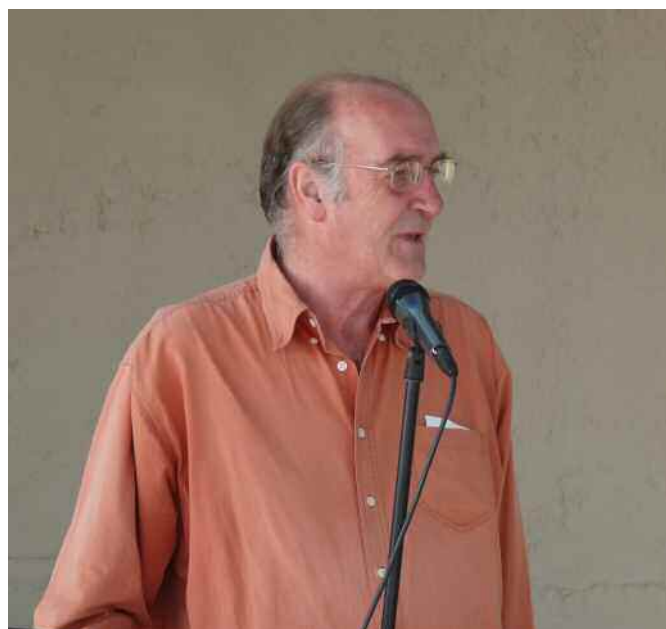
Someone once said that true peace does not come with the absence of trouble, but with the presence of God. Do you remember how it was when you were first converted? Everything, yes, everything was brought before the Lord. And the sweetness of His presence was our great strength. No wonder the old hymn writer said these words, "Where is the blessing that once I knew when first I saw the Lord? Where is the soul's refreshing view of Jesus and His word?"

Everything, yes, everything was brought before the Lord

We must get back to (if we have fallen away) looking to the Lord – what we would call the daily quiet time. I was speaking to a minister yesterday who lives in Scotland and he, not knowing what I am writing about today, told me that a young person in his congregation was not having bible readings anymore. She is too busy on Facebook, where she spends an hour every morning. No wonder someone has written a book on 'The Tyranny of the Internet'. Our true facebook is to behold God's face. Communicating with others is important, but our obsession, if we can use such a word, should be in looking to God.

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another" 2 Cor 3:18

When the great artist, Leonardo da Vinci finished his masterpiece called 'The Last Supper' (probably his greatest work), he had painted in a beautiful chalice on the depicted table. This lovely goblet was painted with gold and fine jewels. He called all his contemporaries in to see his finished work before showing it to the public and they all, to a man, remarked on the beautiful goblet. To their astonishment, Leonardo da Vinci went back to the painting with his palette and brush and painted out the goblet. In horror, they asked him what he had done. And he answered, we must look at the Christ, nothing else must distract us.



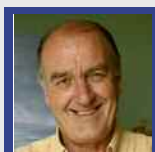
It's really a strange thing that the apostle Paul wrote in 2 Tim 2:8 "Remember Jesus Christ."

My dear friends, let's look to Him and our faces shall be radiant and we'll be of more effect in this secular world than we will ever know.

On a personal note, I am enjoying seeing the ministry expand and though playing a lesser role now, I'm going to see church leaders and getting the 'contract', as we say. I'm also doing a fair bit of counselling and am in demand locally for preaching, though not accepting all invites. I have time to advise and pray more, but not as much time for painting as I would like. Nonetheless, I have just opened my own art website (see advert on P3), am spending more time with Gillie and the family, and sleeping in my own bed! I am looking to the Lord, thankful for the past and anticipating even better things for the future. I am grateful to all of you for your enormous and steady support in prayer, and giving in these stringent times. I would say for all of us that we are a special crowd and I'm grateful for it. Looking back on the way that God has led us, I am delighted that in my youth I dreamed a dream and have seen it very largely fulfilled. I'm keeping fit by walking the dog and going back into one room or another to pick up what I have forgotten to bring. I'm at the stage of life where when I drop a thing on the floor – I ask myself the question, is there anything else I can do while I'm down here?

I continue to evangelise but less often. I am involved in counselling/directing/and working with church leaders.

May this year hold something special for you. God bless you all. Pray for us.



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Future missions

Dromara Parish Mission	11-19 February
Walk Uganda 2012 Approx	5-23 February *
Drumcree Parish Mission	10-18 March
Craigavon Parish Mission	31 March - 8 April
Flame of Hope Chippenham	12-27 May *
St Luke's, Prittlewell Southend	9-17 June
Worthing Central & East	9-17 June 2012 *
Stratford Olympics Outreach	27 July to 12 August 2012 *
Worthing Broadwater	15-23 September 2012 *
Ingleton	6-14 October 2012 *
Oakington near Cambridge	tba

Missions with a star at the end are recruiting for team members. Contact the TFM office if you are interested in joining.

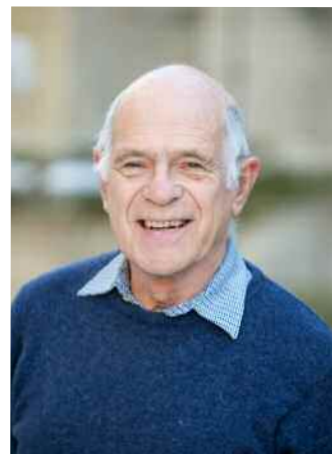
For further details see;
www.throughfaithmission.org/futuremissions

He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Luke 10:2

Prayer Partner Conference 2012

Saturday 23 June 2012
9.30am - 4.00pm
The Bellbird Primary School, Sawston, CB22 3GB
Cost: £10 per delegate

Make a note in your diary for Saturday 23 June when we will be holding our 24th Prayer Partner Conference which we have called 'Changing Times'. We are very pleased to announce that our keynote speaker will be the Revd Canon Michael Green. Michael is one of the world's leading evangelists and is Senior Research Fellow at Wycliffe Hall. His past experience includes being Principal of St John's College, Nottingham, Professor of Evangelism at Regent College, Vancouver and advisor to the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York for the Springboard Decade of Evangelism. Michael was appointed in 1993 as a Six Preacher of Canterbury Cathedral. He is also the author of numerous books including a number on evangelism.



If you are interested in coming please book your place early via

www.throughfaithmissions.org/partnerconference2012

Media News

Since its launch earlier in June we have continued to add content to the new TFM website. The popularity of the site is growing and in total, in the six months since the launch, over 52,000 pages of the website have been viewed. Over the coming months we hope to review and update many of the resources that were available from the old website and make them available on the new site.

November saw the launch of the new TFM newsletter with some very encouraging feedback. As John mentioned, in his introduction to that first newsletter, we hope that both the newsletter and the website with its latest news section will allow us to communicate with you more, and keep you better informed of what is happening at TFM, all this at a significantly lower cost. If you have not done so already, and have access to the internet, we would encourage you to visit our website and sign up to receive the newsletter. This is easily done by choosing **News and Events** from the top menu bar and selecting **eNewsletter** from the drop down menu.



November also saw the launch of our website shop. Over the coming months we hope to add more resources that you might want to purchase to help you in spreading the good news.



WALK WEST DORSET...

How did it go?

"It was the best Walk I have been on!"

"It was the hardest mission I have served on".

Such is mission. For some it's great; for others it's a slog. For some churches it can be a revelation but for others the feedback has been more ambivalent. However the important thing is that we went out there; sharing the gospel with folk who would not have heard it other wise.

A full report can be found at

www.throughfaithmissions.org/walkwestdorset



Altogether a good period of positive impact for the gospel. We may have to wait months or years to see the fruit of the seed planted.



Fred from Weymouth;
'It was a pleasure to care for our team of 10. They worked well with us and were very effective especially along our esplanade. They enjoyed talking with holiday makers.'



Clifford from Weymouth;
'I found it was a wonderful time of blessing for me at all levels from the doors to team spirit and the teams, to feeling loss when they went! The teams motivated, convicted the church and moved them to action. The gospel was given out to 62 streets in our area!'



Alan from Dorchester;
'We are very encouraged - and so you can be too - that we have had a number of folk regularly attending church and / or the Alpha course as a result of the mission. In particular a guy called (name removed), who was both spoken to at the market and visited on the doors when he was at the end of his tether - divine timing I believe. He has been coming regularly to Alpha and also once on a Sunday with some of his children. Please pray for all those with whom we made contact, especially those who have as yet to come to faith but are searching.'



John from Melbury;
 'The WWD was a wonderful opportunity to challenge village folk on their doorsteps and encourage others in pubs, homes and concerts to consider Jesus' claims upon their lives. The team moved around graciously making new contacts and spreading the word. The teams were diverse in their makeup which produced some problems but the general feeling was good!'



Peter from Dorchester;
 'Many contacts to follow up and some new comers to Sunday services and at Alpha Courses. A great mission and a super team.'



Graham from Melbury;
 'It was a great team TFM put together, and we really enjoyed having them here. At one point Jackie (my wife) said it was like housing a dozen puppies. Wonderful enthusiasm, great courage, and not a bad word all week from any of them. A tribute to them.'



'What a fantastic week we've had here in Broadwey and Upwey. It has been a great joy to have had them with us, and the way they have shared the good news of Jesus in the community and our local Schools has been inspiring. Yesterday morning at St Laurence Upwey we had as our speaker the Bishop of Sherborne – Graham Kings. In his sermon, he not only spoke well of WWD but gave his own testimony and how he had once made a prayer of commitment. He then asked the congregation to do the same as he led them. Wow! We will endeavour to use WWD as a springboard here in our Parishes – and support TFM as best we can.'



FINANCES

We don't talk much about finances at TFM. The key word in our name is "faith". Everything we do is underpinned by our reliance in doing God's work. Although things do get tight at times we are constantly amazed by the gifts we receive. We believe that God will provide for the needs of the missions He asks us to do.

How is TFM funded?

A common misconception is that TFM is funded by 'the Church'. It isn't. We rely solely on donations from individuals and gifts from the churches with whom we do mission.

How is TFM doing in these difficult times?

Like many organisations we have seen a reduction in giving and an increase in costs.

What does TFM need?

Primarily; Prayer.

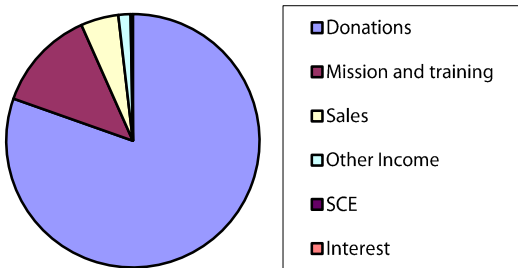
- Thank God for those who give, particularly our regular donors of whom there are about 230
- Thank God that despite difficult times the ministry continues
- Please pray for more regular giving – no matter how small
- Pray for the means to support a new evangelist. We have the missions; whom will God call?

The detailed accounts for TFM are published by the charity commission and these are available for viewing at www.charitycommission.gov.uk.

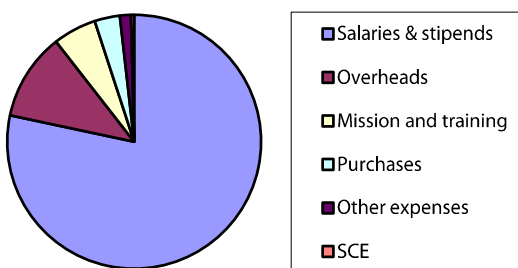
Here is a brief summary for 2011.

Total income	£221,196
Total expenditure	£236,248

Income for 2011



Expenditure for 2011



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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