

# NEWSLETTER



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## "Amazing, Incredible, Life changing"

Just some of the many reactions to the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on the Ultimate Gold mission during the Olympics, as many found Gold that will last for ever. Seven years ago, a dream was born and a seed was planted when the Olympics were awarded to GB and Stratford was to be the main centre for the London Olympics 2012. The vision was for the Stratford churches to come together and to put on a festival of faith for people from across the world. Initial prayer and planning between St John's Church, the Stratford church leaders and Through Faith Missions (TFM) to prepare for an Olympic outreach began. During this time strong partnerships were formed between TFM, Open Air Campaigners (OAC) and local church leaders and there was a sense that the Great Commission was to go out into the world to share the gospel but here was an opportunity when the whole world was coming to us in London. We trained many local people from the churches in outreach and evangelism and held missions in 2010 for the World Cup, "Ultimate Goal" and 2011, "Ultimate Dream" which helped us in working together.

For the Olympics, the vision of an outreach festival of faith was realised, based around the hub of St John's courtyard with a Welcome/registration desk with literature in various languages, free tea and coffee, Prayer Zone, face painting, games and puppet shows, youth area with cage football and table tennis, together with central presentations of the Christian faith throughout the day (12 noon 'till late) from the TFM team and also OAC with sketchboard and an escapologist. We also selected a number of singers, dancers and bands from all over the world, arranged through More than Gold. Faith surveys, visits to pubs and cafes, along with the God Test and prophetic evangelism, were carried out in the immediate area. Other local churches also acted as hospitality centres and held outreach activities. We had a

follow-up referral system for anyone who made a response to faith or prayer. I would like to thank all of our own exceptional team members and locals who worked so hard over the 18 days of outreach.

We praise God for well over 300 responses and enquiries about faith and prayer which are being followed up. We also give thanks to the many people around the world praying for us, especially for the weather which was very good. It was a very special time with many people entering into the festival area and into faith and genuinely being touched in a deep way by the Lord. We did have some opposition but that is to be expected. We were encouraged by a word from the Lord in Exodus 16:4 that 'manna' would be provided for each day and so it turned out to be!

There has been a lot of talk about the legacy left by the Olympics but for many people, lives have been touched and changed forever because of the outreach. That's what you call a lasting legacy!! Please enjoy some of the stories and encounters from the mission later in the newsletter.



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## JOHN WRITES...

Firstly let me apologise that this newsletter is coming out a little later than we had originally planned. It proved impossible to get this distributed for early September. On the plus side, this enables us to report on missions in May, June and July / August, not least the unique outreach that took place as part of the 2012 Olympics.

There are other ways of receiving news about TFM if you have Internet access: the weekly email prayer news, additional e-newsletters and the TFM Facebook page. Currently we only have email contact details for about half of our prayer partners. I know that some people do not have Internet access but if you do, please could you send your email address to the office? We do not pass on this information to anyone else so you would only receive e-news (currently 4 per year) and, if you sign up for it, the weekly prayer email. Both are free! Another advantage of these forms of communication is that they are interactive, enabling us to receive your feedback.

Looking ahead, we have Walk Cornwall 2 next year and other Walk missions being explored. We also have a good number of other missions in the pipeline and we will be reviewing the fruitful work in Stratford over recent years as we consider on-going mission partnerships. The appointment of an evangelist to spearhead evangelism among the under-35s remains high on our agenda; as yet, we have not found anyone to fill such a post. It's important that we recruit the right person, so please pray that we will have the right mix of urgency and patience.

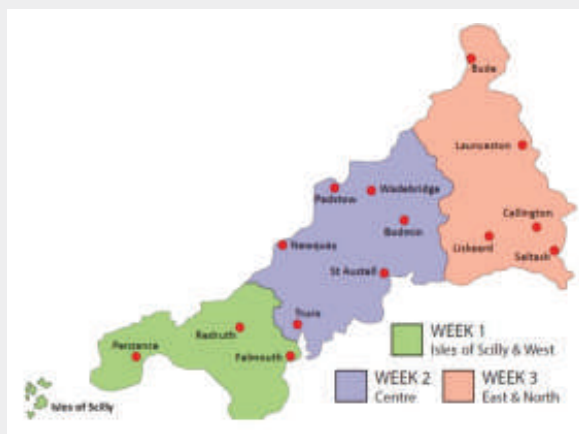
As we try to grasp the opportunities God is giving us, we are so grateful that you stand with us. Prayer, sadly so often neglected in the congregational life of our churches, transforms situations and changes lives; there are times on mission when it's tangible. In July we met for half a day to pray specifically about our finances, thankful to God that we have never run out of money but also concerned that our bank balance is often rather low. I am glad to say that there have been some additional one-off gifts and new standing orders since but please continue to make this a theme of your prayers. This ministry is 'by faith' but we also sense that a more stable regular income would enable us to do so much more.

## Walk Cornwall 2: 21 Sep – 13 Oct 2013

Why did I choose to spend 9 days walking from Land's End to Callington? It was an investment of time – and energy – but I came back feeling it had been very worthwhile. My experience of the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, almost exactly 7 years before, confirmed the fact that I find it helpful to combine walking and prayer. You also pick up the sense of what is going on. In this respect, the meetings I had were perhaps the most valuable aspect. I met church leaders and members from many different communities and distributed about 500 prayer bookmarks for the Walk. It was great to have support from David and Maureen Worley and others along the way.

As you receive this newsletter TFM personnel and team members will be visiting church leaders in Cornwall to share the vision for Walk Cornwall 2 / Kerdh Kernow 2. In this article I want to give you some insights as you pray for this mission, as well as encouragements from my prayer walk in July.

- Give thanks that I met many people who were thrilled with 1993 and look forward with anticipation to Walk Cornwall 2.
- Give thanks for a committed group of TFM team members throughout Cornwall who are the backbone of the visitors to church leaders.
- Give thanks for signs of courageous faith; one church leader asked if his town could have 10 teams!
- Give thanks for a good Task Force drawn from different denominations. Pray for Steve Wild (Methodist District Chair) who leads it & Archdeacon Audrey Elkington, also on this group.
- Pray for recruitment – always our greatest challenge. This Walk is the biggest since Cumbria in 2007. We could easily need 500 team members.







- Congregations are ageing, as younger people move away for work; this is true of the wider population too in Cornwall; pray for energy to engage with the Walk again.
- Church leaders have larger groups of churches to care for; pray that they will still invite teams to work with them – pray for those doing the visiting to present the vision persuasively and well.
- Many new independent churches have emerged in the past 20 years; pray that we can engage them in the Walk.

It is important for us to be 'real' about the situation as we prepare for any mission. Cornwall could be glorious but you can also see some of the challenges that we face. What can make the difference? Your prayers! Resting on these prayers, we will be very active in early 2013 – briefing churches, training team members, and even having a tour by Dan, John, Roger and Peter to showcase what we can offer. In short, TFM continues to prepare in depth for these Walks because our desire is to see people come to faith and the church encouraged for future mission.

John Hibberd



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## Chippenham Flame of Hope Mission:

12-27 May



This was a foretaste of the Olympics – idyllic Wiltshire villages, as portrayed in the opening ceremony; crowd evangelism as the Torch procession attracted 8000 people to the town of Chippenham in the second week; and the world on our doorstep, courtesy of the Uganda Fire choir who joined us.

TFM teams were based in three different groups of villages; in addition, I led a mobile team that visited over 20 churches across 5 different benefices that are part of Chippenham Deanery. The events were hugely varied:

- An evening with CS Lewis with a professional actor drew a good crowd.
- 'Faith and film', 'Science and Faith' (shared with Bishop Lee) and 'Any Questions' events gave people a chance to grapple with issues.
- A Sunday sports event (with a short lunchtime service in an inflatable church) attracted 70+ people (in comparison with 20-30 in the regular Sunday service in church).
- Locals in one village outnumbered the team on door-to-door! Even outlying farms were visited.
- Martyr Hugh Latimer had been priest at a tiny country church in this area. A big crowd came to hear a talk on his life and the flame of hope that he prayed he would kindle as he died.
- The day after the torch relay, Neston School recreated their own event (complete with their handmade torches) as the mobile team left from that village; this is an event that will not easily be forgotten by the teachers, the children or the team!

The Area Dean, Rev Canon Simon Tyndall wrote, "I just wanted to write to thank you TFM folk for the fantastic job you did during this two weeks of Flame of Hope." We're glad it went well, as we are already preparing for 9-19 May 2013 when Flame of Hope returns, this time to the towns of Chippenham and Corsham.

John Hibberd



# STRATFORD STORIES..

The following stories are just a fraction of those written by team members about some of the encounters during the outreach. (names are changed)

"Young man, in conversation declared he was a long term cocaine user and it no longer gave him a "High". After a very blunt conversation, not in the TFM manual, he asked for prayer. It had been a cloudy, dull morning but as I prayed the Holy Spirit came on him; he shuddered and the sun or Son broke through, he was tearful and said that he had never had a high like that in all the time he was on drugs. He committed to return to see me, all too often they don't. A week later he returned beaming and said I want you to be proud of me and showed me a certificate from his clinic that he was free of cocaine. Praise God."



"While doing God Test with 2 young Muslim girls of Moroccan descent, one of the girls told how Jesus regularly visits her in dreams. We got to share with and pray for her, and left her with a Gospel booklet to help 'interpret' her dreams."



"John: arrives at Cake and Controversy at the Baptist Church, head slumped during the whole time, no eye contact, responds. Returns the next day standing upright, smile on his face, sparkle in his eyes, transformed."

"A mother of two who committed to Christ said that she has been let down a lot by family and friends, doesn't know who to trust because people always let you down. So she felt happy after the prayer and a chat so she wanted to go and tell her children about Jesus and read the prayer to them too."



"A husband and wife from Hackney both accepted Knowing God Personally (KGP) leaflets after a gospel presentation. I spoke to the wife; already a Christian but hasn't been attending church regularly. I went thru' KGP with her and told her about the relationship God wants with us and she prayed the prayer and accepted some literature to help her in her daily walk. Her husband also spoke to Gary and accepted Jesus."



"A 39 year old lady from Bangladesh, a lawyer, came to the UK 6 weeks ago to do post graduate studies. Has been feeling homesick and been crying every day. She surprised me by asking whether I would pray for her to connect with God's spirit, as ever since she came to UK she hasn't been able to connect to Allah. She didn't mind at all when I said I would only pray for the Holy Spirit to come upon her in the Name of Jesus as we believed Jesus is God. Tears were rolling down her eyes as the Holy Spirit touched her. As we came away from the prayer tent she said that not only could she feel the love in this place but that love was welling up inside of her."





"Late at night in the dark, as we were packing away, there was a chance of a last presentation of faith for the day, with only a few people there. It would have been easy to just pack away. However, a young man appeared from nowhere, sat in the front row, was riveted by what was being said, leapt up after the presentation to hug the speaker and say this was what he had been looking for."



"Another guest at Cake and Questions in the O12; She responds, then in the public question time blurts out that as a child she was serially sexually abused and raped as a teenager and wants her adult assailants condemned to hell. The women on the team gather round her at the table, minister to her, pray for her, then afterwards she asks me to bless the crucifix she is wearing and to pray for her silent husband, David, who is sitting with her. He then receives Christ."

"A Latvian grandmother approached a team member almost by sign language to indicate her basic understanding of the presentation of faith, but communication was difficult. Then up popped a 7 year old granddaughter who took the literature, said she had prayed too and would explain everything to her grandmother as she spoke perfect English, French, Latvian and Russian!"



"A young Muslim girl, dressed in traditional gear including hijab, stopped to take the God Test. 45 minutes later she'd heard the Gospel for the very first time and, although not yet ready to pray, she took a 'Knowing God Personally' booklet to give to her mom."



"A Muslim man and his son stopped to observe the outdoor performances. They took some Gospel literature and said they would go away and read it. 30 minutes later they returned, and the son requested someone share with him about Jesus. One of the team members did, and shortly after the young man prayed to receive Jesus."

"Sarah and Mark: happy to do the God Test in the field. Sarah is young and beautiful and spiritual, Mark is rough, tough, scarred and agnostic. But there is a God encounter. They accept KGP's. That was the final Saturday afternoon. They are back again on Sunday afternoon with John whom they introduce to me. He is desperate, recently released from prison. Reading Romans 7 with me – "For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing...What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord!" – John declares, "That's me!" He responds to Christ. Mark is also drawn closer and Sarah is filled up. All of them ask for New Testaments wanting me to sign them, and they depart saying that they will return to this brilliant place."



## MORE STRATFORD STORIES..

"Two young ladies in the pub, after a conversation started by Frank, wanted to hear my testimony. I said that I was not there to 'tickle their ears'. They said they wanted the full version so they got it and it was overheard by all. One was a lapsed Christian and her friend was going home to Scotland that night, where the ripples go I know not."

"A man who became a frequent visitor to the Hub eventually had a chat with a team member and he said that everything that was being presented made real sense to him and he made a profession of faith and brought his wife along to some later events."



"13yr old Catharine who is from a Catholic background was sitting with her mum, Grandma and her two brothers during one of the presentations and wanted to give her heart to Jesus and prayed the prayer of commitment."

"One of our team members approached a pretty young lady who was being pestered by a man she did not know for her details with a promise of 'entertainment' work! After a long conversation the lady made a response to Christ and did not follow through the other option."



"Another guy responded at a presentation and chatted with a team member about his drinking addiction. After prayer and seeing him around during the following days, he showed the team member evidence that he had not had a drink for well over a week since that time."



## Worthing "More than Gold" Mission

The mission in Central and East Worthing called "More than Gold" involved 12 churches and over 90 events in a very busy week. The mission was rather like the weather with extreme contrasts in the variety and nature of events. We saw over 100 responses to the gospel with people responding at most events which included a bikers' day, prayer chair on the pier, "Two Sisters and a Funeral" musical, a big family fun day, Messy Church, curry nights, healing services and many more. Split into two teams, there were 17 team members who attended events, shared their stories and the gospel and were also out on the streets meeting many from different backgrounds with some remarkable stories of people turning to Christ.

All the churches reported people coming to faith and are running follow up courses. The general feedback was positive with the churches feeling that the mission had really focussed them on what being church was all about. They were also pleased with the sense of unity among the churches upon which they hoped to build in the future.

David Culhane





## DANIEL WRITES...

It was a sunny afternoon in the plum orchard. The plums, in their crimson and gold, hung in great bunches against the dark foliage. As I walked by, to my absolute delight (I even shouted out "Wow!"), a whole cloud of butterflies arose. I've not seen so many, so soft, so silent, so colourful. It was astonishingly beautiful. They were mainly peacocks, commas and red admirals. I walked through them as I would walk through wood-smoke. I then realised that, at the foot of the tree, hundreds of plums had been dumped. Here the butterflies were feeding and my presence put them up. The episode was so silent and so beautiful it felt like a touch of heaven. To paint a picture of such a cloud would be impossible. What a privilege.

It was reminiscent in its joy of something even more beautiful that captured my heart many years ago. I was painting a picture of a skull, surrounded by flowers and beauty, in an attempt to represent my conversion to Christ. The joy of that day has never been surpassed and I wrote on the bottom of the canvas:

*2 Corinthians 5:17 "If anyone be in Christ, he is a new creation. Behold the old has passed away, the new has come!"*

Will you please believe me when I say that the joy of that day of conversion, or should I say, period of conversion, was more exquisite than the joy in the orchard two weeks ago.

Of course, there are similarities in comparison to the life-cycle of a butterfly. The caterpillar is earthbound, slow, somewhat unattractive and destined for complete conversion and that was what I was experiencing all those years ago. The wonder of that conversion of my heart and life caused me to be ordained and subsequently to form Through Faith Missions.

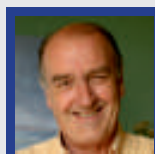
It would be true to say two things:

1. I don't feel that sense of exquisite joy every day, but the sense of joy remains permanent, despite life's difficulties.
2. I am deeply convinced that the joy of conversion can and does happen through Jesus Christ.

There is a question that lies at the heart of most human beings, namely, "Is there more to life than this?" That 'something' that the human heart longs for is God. No matter what a person possesses, achieves or is privileged to enjoy – only Christ can satisfy the soul, and our work in Through Faith Missions is to bring about this transition, through the preaching of Christ crucified and raised from the dead.

David Hunt, (who has since gone to be with the Lord), along with Keith Massey, accompanied me on countless Nights of Colour, where, as you know, I show paintings and preach the gospel. David was well into his seventies and I once asked him, "Why are you so eager to come on so many engagements?" His answer was, "I love to hear the Gospel". Notice, it was not seeing paintings, travelling everywhere and enjoying fellowship, but 'hearing the Gospel'.

The task of the evangelist is to preach Christ and Him crucified. This is what leads to conversion. This is what releases joy. This is what makes the angels sing and we have in this wonderful task the enabling to create a joy which will be as delightful, as surprising and yet more common and more wonderful than that day in the orchard.



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Daniel is still available to receive invitations, but he must necessarily be selective.

## Prayer Partner Conference June 2012

This year's Through Faith Missions Prayer Partners conference was a great time of refreshing and encouragement. Held in the comfortable setting of the new Bellbird Primary School in Sawston around 120 TFM supporters gathered to hear news of recent TFM missions and events and pray for the future work of TFM. John Hibberd opened the day with a report on his recent pilgrimage in Cornwall as part of the lead up to the Walk Cornwall 2 mission in September 2013. This was followed by a lively 'Breakfast News' style panel presentation hosted by David Baslington with news and updates on recent TFM events. The keynote speaker was the well-known author and evangelist Rev Dr Michael Green who gave two talks during the day. The first entitled Changing Times – Changing Approaches and the second Obstacles to Growth .... and faith. Michael gave a challenging message encouraging us to think carefully about how the world is changing and how our work in evangelism must develop to keep up with that change. John and Michael's talks are available to download or listen to on the TFM website. The day was drawn to a close by some thoughts and prayers from Daniel Cozens.



Details of our 2013 Prayer Partner Conference will be in our next newsletter or keep an eye out for news on our website.

## The Humble Beauty Of A Mission In The Anglo-Catholic Parish Of St Luke's, Prittlewell

The first person to respond to the preaching was the Anglo-Catholic charismatic bishop who had just commissioned us. He knelt before me saying, "Please bless me Fr Peter". That was stunning, and it set the tone for the whole mission.

Three months prior to that at the training weekend there, the parish priest Fr James McCluskey had opened it with his personal testimony declaring what a wretch he had been as a non-Christian, how Christ had saved him through the ministry of an evangelical clergyman, which had reduced him to three hours of tears of sorrow, relief and joy. This heart-on-sleeve testimony was amazing, and it prepared the way for the weekend and the mission.

This Anglo-Catholic parish had never experienced an evangelical mission, and yet everything we asked of this church in terms of prayer, preparation and provision was done with no expense spared even though it was not a wealthy area. The hospitality was abundant and the welcome overflowed.

The TFM team had not experienced unadulterated Anglo-Catholic worship either, using the word Mass for Holy Communion, incense for the Holy Table, acknowledgement of the cross and the beauty of liturgy. The Holy Spirit came and reduced us to silent awe and wonder.

Lots of door-to-door was on the mission agenda accompanied by nervous members of the congregation, who inevitably returned with great joy. Hot Potatoes were also there, a Pink Pampering evening, youth work, schools work, a barbecue, a Holy Spirit service, a Healing service, pastoral visiting, and a Men's breakfast hosted by the local Baptist Church.

Testimonies were given in church as a result, which had never happened before, from the young people as well as the more mature. Converts and enquirers are attending the Going With God nurture course. One man who had attended the Men's Breakfast addressed by Daniel, came looking for Fr James saying he couldn't live with the sense of being away from God any more. He had read the literature and he wanted to come to church because he wanted to know God personally. He cried, Fr James prayed, and he went away smiling.

Glory be to God for this humble and beautiful Anglo-Catholic parish mission, originally inaugurated by Jonathan Mortimer. All being well, it will be a breeding ground for Cornwall team members!

Peter Adams



Peter also played a major part in the Stratford mission.

## 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](http://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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