

THROUGH FAITH MISSIONS

in partnership with local churches
as they engage in mission

Newsletter



December 2017



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Richard writes...

This past week, I've been privileged to attend the funerals of two outstanding Christian men. Bill was my Godfather, but only came to faith in his late fifties. His wife, Margaret, also then a non-believer, had been bed-bound for a year with back-pain and bilateral sciatica. Surgery was not recommended and physiotherapy hadn't worked, so she summoned the local Baptist minister as a last resort. Well out of his comfort zone, but challenged by her to pray, he gave it a go, at which point she leapt out of bed! Both Margaret and Bill were converted on the spot and all three present gained a significant healing ministry. I hope very much to do some training and mission with that Baptist church in the near future.

Peter Cannings I met only much more recently. He ran the door-to-door work in our May mission to Uppingham, despite having advanced prostate cancer, which rapidly took a hold over

this Summer. At his funeral, attended by a few members of our team, the eulogies expressed resembled those at Bill's celebration and caused many of us to question how we could ever live lives which even vaguely matched up to these wonderful men of God.

Healing and death; two sides of the same coin. In John Ch: 4v46 - 53 we read this: *And there was a certain royal official*

whose son lay sick at Capernaum. When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death. "Unless you people see signs and wonders", Jesus told him, "you will never believe." The royal official said, "Sir, come down, before my child dies." "Go", Jesus replied, "your son will live." This man took Jesus at his word and departed. While

he was still on the way his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, "Yesterday,



at one in the afternoon, the fever left him." Then the father realised that this was the exact time at which Jesus has said to him, "Your son will live." So he and his whole household believed.

We love to read of Jesus' miracles. How could anyone professing to be God do less? Yet these days, so many people discount the miraculous. At a mens' curry evening last week in Purley, I sat next to a previous chairman of Mensa. Like others, he preferred his own rational debunking of Jesus' miracles to belief. When I asked him why a man blind since birth should claim to see if it wasn't true, or how Jesus died and came back to life three days later, just as He'd predicted, his explanations, like others that week, were varied, imaginative and not a little ridiculous. All week, we'd been encouraging folk to taste and see that the Lord is good. At a healing service, we saw painful knees, in particular, transformed through prayer. One young man demonstrated what God had done by leaving the building,

squatting and then sprinting, whilst the look on another older man's face as his limp disappeared, was truly something. Similar, in fact, to that on a young lady's face after her deaf left ear was opened after prayer, this summer, at Abbeyfest. God is the same yesterday, today and forever and His mercy, never-ending.

Faith - what an extra-ordinary gift from God! The royal official and his household, Bill and Peter all came to believe. But this is not true yet of Bill and Peter's children, who despite miracles and the change wrought in their fathers through faith, still remain on a spiritual journey. Another UK survey has just confirmed that those without faith in God now outweigh believers. Jesus was exasperated that it took signs and wonders for people to believe, and even then, many chose not to. The Mensa man's suggestion that God show Himself so that everyone believes simply doesn't bear water. There will always be doubters and scoffers. Yet, recently in Purley, Hungerford and

Ireland, we have seen seed fall on good soil as people came to faith. Others have shifted in their spiritual journey. Churches were strengthened. Of course there are struggles and frustrations along the way. Working out the best approach to evangelism in 2017 remains something that taxes me. How can we be maximally effective? How do training and mission best fit together? How do we reach into areas as yet untouched by TFM? What staff do we need and how best to deploy them?

Many questions, but one thing remains true: if we preach the gospel of grace, sinners will get saved. If we pray, the sick get healed. And as Bill and Peter are now discovering, the end is actually the beginning. Well done, good and faithful servants.

Richard Scott



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Annual Conference 2018

Make a date in your diary.

The TFM annual conference in 2018 will be held on Saturday 9 June at Great Shelford near Cambridge. Our guest speaker will be John Hibberd, former TFM lead evangelist and now Mission Development Advisor in Sheffield Diocese. There will be further details nearer the time in our spring newsletter and on the TFM website.

Just One Priestfield Stadium

In July 2017 the evangelist J John held his first Just One outreach event at the Emirates stadium in London. Over 23,000 people attended and an estimated quarter of a million people watched online. In total 1,743 responded to the evangelistic message. That event is being followed by a second at the Priestfield Stadium in Gillingham on 9 June 2018. A small team from TFM were at the 2017 event and you can read their story on the news page of the TFM website. Please put the date of the next event in your diary and, if you live nearby, consider whether there is someone you could invite or alternatively whether you could volunteer to help out at the event. TFM will publicise details of how to sign up to help nearer the date.



aCross Britain and HOPE 2018

Richard Scott gives an update on the aCross Britain initiative and our work with HOPE in 2018:

aCross Britain (aCB) was launched in January 2017. Preparation previously had involved taking advice from 50+ UK leaders and producing a training package based on our own new manual for TFM, but now aimed at non-evangelists. Work with Roger Morgan in 2017 has further influenced what I can offer churches, but essentially, we've been champing at the bit since January.

Four questions I'd like to answer in this brief article . . .

- 1) WHAT has been achieved thus far?
- 2) WHAT current aCB training / missions are in the pipeline?
- 3) WHAT have I learnt that should enable aCB in 2018? And . . .
- 4) WHERE does HOPE 2018 fit in?

In answering Qs 1 + 2, it is fair to say that our start was somewhat disappointing. The initial flurry of interest led me to meet individual ministers in Bristol, Bury, Oswestry, Stourport, Woodhall Spa and two in Nottingham. ALL of these proved fruitless. We see this with TFM mission exploration in general - not everything turns to gold. Some ministers decided their flocks weren't ready, in Nottingham another mission partner was chosen instead, whilst in Bristol, the local Bishop stepped in and said they'd already done evangelism recently, so good luck elsewhere! Disappointing, but with the vision intact, this wasn't enough to put me off!

Four other areas have taken up the challenge of training local Christians to open their mouths for God. Having spoken to the Guildford Evangelists Forum in the summer, I met with the Bishop of Guildford's representatives who are keen for us to train their curates in practical evangelism, prior to their incumbencies. TFM have long wished to reach into ordination colleges. Catching them at this slightly later stage, with the Bishop's backing, would also work; if it does, perhaps we could roll it out into other Dioceses.

This unexpected turn of events helps me to answer my third question. I've learnt to be very flexible in what is offered! My original plan - to offer a 3-weekend training schedule - has been scotched after discovering that each individual minister wants their own bespoke package! For example, Roger Morgan favours 3 Saturday mornings' training prior to mission. We'll adopt the same approach for the Bedworth mission next autumn.

However, elsewhere ministers have shown real interest in emphasising training but with different time-scales. For example, a single aCB weekend is planned in Abingdon, Oxford. I will discuss then whether they'd like a mission to follow. Recently I met with a Church in Chatteris. Their emphasis is on a mission, with an October 2018 date, but with a weekend allocated first to training (in May). I'll do this using the aCB model.

During autumn, I will be exploring aCross Britain training / mission in Linton, Cambs and - praise be - a church in Wednesbury following a call that we received to the midlands last year. I am also in discussion with a few other churches.

Ahead are many plans. When I first started with TFM, I really wanted to extend our range into Scotland. Kevin Granville, Dave Cooke and Roz Haycock have sortied on several occasions to Stirling, but just recently God has begun to open more doors north of the border. TFM-er Elisabeth Heeley and Rev. Andrew Mackie, with whom I recently stayed in Purley, have both supplied me with many contacts, which I will be investigating after Breaston. One lady, with tentacles widely spread in Scotland, is already very keen, so watch this space! I'd love to see us working in several sites, with aCB training leading to missions. Come on Lord!

I've also been challenged by my wife, Heather, and one or two other members of my church in Margate, asking why we aren't working in East Kent. To this end, we are profiling all churches from Maidstone through Canterbury, Sandwich and Dover, plus those on the Northern coast to the Isle of Grain. With much work ahead, we'll see who bites . . .

As you'll note, much of what we do remains possible through word of mouth. But TFM remains only patchily-known throughout the UK. This is where HOPE comes in. HOPE is a national organisation that encourages and resources churches to work together in mission. Roy Crowne, who heads up HOPE, is leading another big push in 2018. I met with Roy in September, wanting to know how we could be involved. He has great plans for 2018, 2019 and 2020 - which explains the HOPE article elsewhere in this newsletter. But, the quid pro quo was obvious: please advertise aCB and TFM through HOPE's website. This he readily agreed to do. I hope this will lead to more openings for us for training and mission in the near future.





Kenya and Uganda Missions in 2018

Kenya

Maasai Pastor David Kereto has again invited a team from TFM to join with EMMA in serving his people. The trip will be from 18 February to 2 March 2018. The last joint evangelistic and medical mission, in 2016, proved highly effective and so we will adapt this approach again going to Maasai land. However, for a joint team to be manifest, we need TFM-ers! We welcome both experienced East African hands and newcomers – as our best trips usually involve an equal sprinkling of the old and the new.

Please contact the TFM office if you are interested!

Richard Scott

Uganda

Off we go again in 2018! It was back in the year 2000 that the first Walk Uganda trip took place, with two teams going, one to Matugga and one to Nakaseke. Since then one team of between seven and twelve have gone each year with a variety of years' experience. Kevin Granville, leading the trip in 2018, is the only one who went in 2000, although he then joined the Kenya team until 2017. Sidney Miller has the record, clocking up 16 years in the team so far!

The 2018 trip looks as though it will again be two teams, such is the demand to join, and each team is likely to visit three different locations, although exact details will be finalised at the end of October. Some of the possible locations are east of Kampala, for the first time – Mukono, Ngora and Soroti, with the benefit of Frank Guinness in the team, who worked in Ngora hospital. We are also planning

to visit Nakaseke, north of Kampala, working with a young pastor, Daniel Kato, who was an orphan brought up at the orphanage run by David Sseruwagi, who hosted the Nakaseke team back in 2000. Bunyoro-Kitara diocese in the west has also invited us back, as has David Katende from Ndejje, near Entebbe, who spoke at the Prayer Partners' Conference in 2016.

As in the UK, the churches have to put together a programme and are encouraged to come out with us on the doors (and we need them to interpret!) However, the variety of events is extraordinary, from football matches, people's homes, shops, markets, pastors' seminars, schools, prisons, internally displaced persons' camps, hospitals (can you imagine a ward in the UK stopping to allow a speaker to share the gospel before the team go to every bed with a gift and offer prayer- what a privilege!) This year we paid for a doctor and dentist to work at a clinic in David Katende's church – we also supplied all the medicines free – but there was a catch – everyone heard the Gospel preached whilst waiting! Then there are crusades with testimonies and Gospel messages before individual prayer is offered – and they flock to receive it. We give out boxes of Bibles and quantities of school text books, we feed the prisoners and HIV+ patients, we run seminars in the churches – and everywhere we rejoice as lives are given to Christ.

Please pray for us as we travel on 1 February 2018 for three weeks – it's exhausting, we need energy, we need protection on the roads, we need good health – but above all we need to be open to the Lord's leading as we seek to bring the Good News of Jesus to those who so desperately need to hear it.

Judy Miller



Roger writes...

We had two very good harvest missions in Hungerford and Bicester. These were both partnership missions which means that the team and myself will be returning there for further outreach – see separate reports in this newsletter.

Jim Fleming is settling in well in his new role in Ireland, balancing his work on the Killicomaine Estate in Seago with his itinerant role. We shall be working together in November to prepare for a



West Ireland mission and looking for other outreach opportunities.

The outreach work on the south coast is going well as I am involved in helping to set up an outreach centre on a local estate near Seaford called 'The Cabin'. We will run courses there and be a hub for the community which will lead on to outreach events. I will also be leading a mission in Eastbourne, and be involved in 'The Turning' which will be an evangelistic outreach across East Sussex in June 2018.

Diary Dates

- Nov 17-19 Visiting West of Ireland to set up a mission with Bishop Ferran Glenfield and Jim Fleming.
- Nov 23 Meeting with leaders regarding 'The Turning' in East Sussex.
- Dec 16 Christmas Carol outreach at The Cabin Seaford.



Roger Murphy

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Harvest Outreach Emmanuel Church, Bicester 5 - 8 October 2017

A team (Roger, David, Roz, Jeremy Borton, Andy & June Gibson, Val Jacobs and Maureen Keepin) linked up with Rev Ian Biscoe for a harvest outreach in Bicester. Emmanuel Church has a fairly new church building with great facilities making links with the community mainly through their café. We were joined by our escapologist, Paul Woodman, on our team. The team were mainly involved with door to door work on the Southwold Estate and we reached out to many who were right outside of any Christian contact, sharing with many people with no links to church or Christianity. We shared with teenagers at a youth club and an open air in the town shopping centre with several making prayerful responses to Christ. We were also able to share our faith in the local pub.



The Dads and Lads' breakfast was good with five men responding including one who had been very anti! The harvest meal and café service brought in a few more responses with over 25 people in all responding and being followed up.

We ended with a healing and wholeness service which was well attended with the team in four pairs and me praying with many people for well over an hour after the service with some responding to faith.

A good start and a great encouragement. There is still much to do in a place of great potential in terms of links with the community. We will be pursuing these opportunities with the home team. An Alpha course started after the mission.

Roger Murphy

Jim Fleming, TFM's new evangelist in Northern Ireland, introduces himself and tells a bit about his work there:

I was brought up in a 'semi-Christian' home with my Mum being a firm believer and my Dad only coming to faith after I was married. I attended Sunday School, Methodist and Pentecostal churches and The Boys' Brigade. It was on the way home from a Brigade Camp in Cornwall 1982 that God reached out and saved me. However, my journey to try and become a disciple of Jesus has taken a very long time. I served in The Boys' Brigade for over 20 years but it was only when I was led into getting involved with Christians Against Poverty (CAP) in 2009 that I started to seriously look at evangelism.

The CAP Centre I managed was the first in Ireland and we were blessed to see many respond to the Gospel message. I then went on to complete TFM's Society of Contemporary Evangelists Course at the end of 2015 and I was licensed as a Down and Dromore Diocesan Evangelist on St Patrick's Day 2016. Whilst training I had the pleasure of volunteering on Irish TFM Missions with both Richard and Roger.

I am married to Janet (also a Down and Dromore Diocesan Evangelist) and we have two (almost grown up) sons, Andrew and Luke.

On 1 August 2017 I commenced full time work as an Evangelist with TFM and Seagoe Parish Church, Portadown, Northern Ireland. I have the great pleasure of having Roger as a mentor (he paid me to say that!) and we continue to pursue mission opportunities across the island. At present we are working towards partnering with churches and Dioceses to see lives won for God's Kingdom.



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At Seagoe Church I am tasked with working and bringing the Good News of Jesus to an estate in the area called Killicomaine. It is my passion to build relationships with unchurched individuals and have the enormous pleasure of sharing the best news ever conceived with them!

For three days in mid-September I went to work at the Irish Ploughing Championships, the largest agricultural show in Europe. I evangelised alongside teams from the Irish Evangelistic Band, Operation Mobilisation Ireland, First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Georgia, USA and Shoal Creek Baptist, Alabama, USA. In all we numbered around 40 and we had the opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus to many, many people over the 3 days. There were 291,500 people that attended the agricultural show and we had thousands come in and by the 'Cavan Christian Bookstore' where we served free coffee, tea, biscuits, buns, etc. At one time, one of our members counted that the Gospel was being shared with over 40 people at one time. The Holy Spirit is opening the hearts of the Irish people and many stayed for 20-30 minutes to hear and ask questions about salvation by faith in Jesus.

Hope for Hungerford

St Lawrence's Hungerford 28 September to 2 October 2017

A small team and I linked up with Rev Mike Saunders for a Harvest outreach in Hungerford. It was a very fruitful mission with over fifty responses to the Lord. An Alpha course followed the outreach. Events included a quiz night in a local café, coffee morning in the Town Hall, barn dance, breakfast, treasure hunt, town band concert, harvest festival service, Reading Gospel choir, evening service and a lunch, with responses at most events and of course some door to door work!

The team (Roger, David, Roz, Ev Tait, Christina Heyhoe, Richard Foot, Eddy Fisher, and Gillian Hall) worked hard in a church which was not used to evangelism, but some of the church folk also came out on the doors with us. Many of the core church members were encouraged and received many blessings. The Sunday morning harvest service was pivotal as over 20 people responded and many were prayed with after the service. A very encouraging start to a partnership which will grow.

Roger Murphy



EMMA mission to Sumatra

This year's EMMA (Evangelical Medical Missions Abroad) mission took us to Northern Sumatra, Indonesia. Following on from an excellent visit by All Souls, Langham Place the previous year, in which Rico Tice et al spoke to 14,500 youngsters, we were invited by the same link-man, Masao, to visit 6 rural areas, in four of which we did medical clinics. The trip began with some difficulties as a student became immediately homesick, needing repatriation, another lady was ill on the plane and one bag was searched, requiring explanation as to why we were bringing hundreds of spectacles into Medan Airport! An obstacle for international prayer to overcome!

Onwards, all went well. Bringing two non-medics for the first time proved its worth in gold as Malti and Lily were a rock-solid prayer team, working even harder than the doctors! Our working conditions were basic; church buildings or open town meeting spaces were divided using sheets and sarongs into "consulting rooms". Church pews became examination couches. At the end of the day, we'd journey for 60 - 90 minutes back to our base in Kabanjahe using our emergency response bus! Some nights, we'd get back at 1 am after showing the Jesus Film - which I've now seen shown in several languages and always effectively; here, 40 - 60 people responded each night, including men in the adjacent coffee shops.

One highlight of the mission lay in demonstrating the use of drama to the local churches and Sunday School leaders. Indonesians, like Africans and Indians, sing and dance beautifully but drama was foreign to them. Seeing our amateur attempts, they rapidly improved on what we

could offer, lapping it up. Hands and the Traveller sketches were particularly popular, whilst one marvellous Saturday will stay in memory forever. We'd planned to act out Peter walking on water, Jesus calming the storm and the wise man building his house on the rock. God's comic timing was perfect as He sent the monsoon rain early, breaking through the church roof. As we sang about the rains coming down and the floods rising, life imitated art. The pastor and the people were delighted - "we've been praying for rain." The weather wasn't as we'd planned, but local needs were somewhat greater.

The location was chosen by Masao as the whole area was dominated by an erupting volcano, Mount Sinabung. Calm for centuries, it erupted first in 2010 and has been smouldering and spewing ash ever since, with the loss of just a few lives but many villages. As a result, poverty increased and the medics and prayer team spent much time praying about economic hardship and stress causing headache and severe indigestion. Internally-displaced people are housed in refugee camps. We visited one camp supported by the GBKP Church, with families living together in traditional Indonesian style in a barely believable 10 x 10 foot area. Initially, the people refused to sing, after seven years in a camp, but later sang and prayed with us. At the end of our trip, we allocated some funds raised to these people and felt that our next EMMA trip to Sumatra might usefully target any remaining refugees still not re-housed by the government.

Richard Scott



HOPE2018: Richard Scott recently met up with Roy Crowne, HOPE's executive director, to discuss how the two organisations could support each other.

In this article HOPE describe some of the resources they produce to help churches do evangelism.

Words and action to make Jesus known

HOPE's dream is a growing church, showing Jesus' love and telling the Jesus story at the heart of every village, town and city. Churches across the spectrum of denominations are working together with HOPE towards 2018 and a massive year of mission in words and action to make Jesus known.

The Talking Jesus research (talkingjesus.org), which HOPE commissioned together with the Church of England and the Evangelical Alliance, shows that one in five of the people we talk to about Jesus is open to know more. So HOPE is encouraging every Christian to pray specifically for five friends or family members and to prepare by having something to SAY, something to GIVE and an INVITATION to offer.

Roy Crowne, HOPE's executive director, says, 'We need to be intentional in making Jesus known; intentional about talking to friends, family and others about Jesus; intentional about inviting them to church events, and intentional about providing opportunities for people to hear the gospel and respond.'



HOPE has devised a rhythm of mission through the church year to keep the mission momentum going. 'Often it's not about doing more, but it's about our focus,' says Roy. 'We need to focus on the people in our village, town or city who don't yet know Jesus. So when we have an Easter or Christmas service, we invite guests – perhaps using the Christmas HOPE magazine. And we include ways for them to take the next step on their journey to find out more. That could be an invitation to a Christianity Explored or Alpha course, tickets to the next guest event at your church, or a simple card pointing to the Christian Enquiry Agency website at christianity.org.uk'

Planning a rhythm of mission

Here's what 2018 could look like in your area as you work with other churches to make Jesus known. Use the Talking Jesus – What can I do? booklet to prepare for the year of mission and involve young people in Mission Academy Live – a peer-led evangelism and discipleship training programme (hopetogether.org.uk/MALive).



Christmas is an obvious time to point people to Jesus. Take church outside the building, carol singing door to door or in local pubs and coffee shops. Surprise shoppers with flashmobs in shopping centres, or gather in sports stadiums for events in partnership with Sports Chaplaincy UK. Churches that delivered the 2016 Christmas HOPE magazine door to door found that significantly more people came to church at Christmas as a result. For Christmas 2017 and 2018 HOPE is producing Christmas HOPE

magazines for door-to-door distribution. There is also a free Christmas Carols booklet which churches can use with a range of matching 'Journey to Bethlehem' resources produced by HOPE's partners CPO and Bible Society. During Lent, the 40 days before Easter, be inspired by 40 Stories of HOPE - a new book from the Prison HOPE partnership which includes stories by prisoners, ex-prisoners and prison chaplains as well as group discussion notes to study Mark's Gospel. 40 Stories of HOPE, with a foreword by Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, is the Lent book for Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. Alongside the faith-building prison stories, prayers and Bible readings from Mark's Gospel will help churches to prepare for mission. At Easter deliver the Easter HOPE magazine door to door in your neighbourhood, and invite people to church for Easter guest services. HOPE's book, *Who Do You Say I Am?*, is an ideal gift to give guests at Easter services to explain who Jesus is, why he died, and how we can live in the power of the resurrection.

As the country marks the centenary of the end of World War 1 in 2018, bring your community together for 99 days of prayer, peace and reconciliation ending with a Peace Party. HOPE will be publishing a pocket-sized souvenir booklet for Remembrance Day, which can be given away at Remembrance events.

HOPE's prayer is that every church will do at least one more thing to make Jesus known in 2018. There's a free calendar churches can use to plan events as part of HOPE 2018 - for details about these ideas and more, sign up at www.hopetogether.org.uk to receive regular updates from HOPE or visit the HOPE shop www.hopetogether.org.uk/shop If you can link with churches in your village, town or city, become a HOPE practitioner by contacting Sue Jennens at sue.jennens@hopetogether.org.uk or phone Sue at the HOPE office 01788 542782.

Christmas HOPE

Sky Sports commentator and former Blue Peter presenter Simon Thomas, comedian Miranda Hart, and toy shop entrepreneur Gary Grant all feature in Christmas HOPE - a 28-page glossy give-away magazine from HOPE. First piloted at Christmas 2016, when 100,000 copies were given away by churches to people in their communities, the 2017 print-run is 400,000.

Alongside the celebrity features there's a feature about the Response Pastors and their work behind the scenes after the Manchester Arena tragedy, a page about 'Christmas Lunch on Jesus', a Christmas quiz, prizes with more than £1,300 to win, and a pull-out cartoon re-telling of the nativity story, which is relevant for all ages.

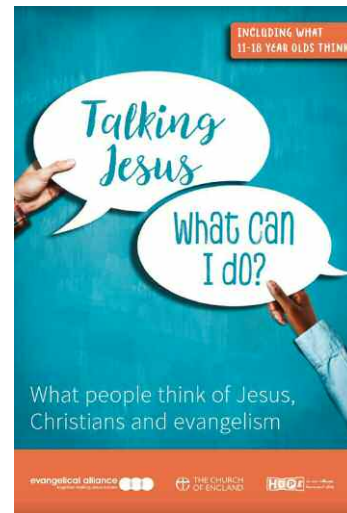
The aim of Christmas HOPE is to give churches a top-quality give-away to use door-to-door in their neighbourhood. Churches that use HOPE's rhythm of mission find that regular contact, and a culture of hospitality and generosity, help to build relationships.



HOPE is committed to giving churches resources so each member has something to say, something to give and an invitation to offer through a rhythm of mission: at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. With Christmas HOPE as something to give, the aim is that Christians will find it easier to say something about their faith and to invite neighbours to Christmas events.

Christmas HOPE Editor Catherine Butcher brings her experience editing top consumer titles for BP and the Co-op, circulating to millions of homes. She has also edited Britain's best-selling Christian magazine Families First.

Copies of Christmas HOPE can be ordered from the HOPE shop www.hopetogether.org.uk/shop and there's a website for the magazine's readers to enter the competitions, watch videos linked to the features and find out more about Christianity at www.christmashope.org.



Talking Jesus

Talking Jesus is an exciting piece of research carried out by the Evangelical Alliance, The Church of England and Hope. It stemmed from a meeting in 2015 when 40 key leaders across a broad spectrum of the church in England met to talk and pray about mission and their collective longing to see God move in this nation. The group commissioned a piece of comprehensive research into how Christians and non-Christians felt about evangelism. The aim was to use the information gained from the survey to encourage and equip every Christian to share their faith. To enable them to be sensitive, positive and culturally-relevant when talking about Jesus and in a way that could be deeply effective in evangelism. The initial adult survey was followed up by a further survey covering young people aged 11 to 18 years old.

The results were fascinating showing a much more positive view than expected of those outside the church as to how they perceive Christians and wanting to know more about Jesus. A number of booklets are available summarising the findings which are a valuable resource for anyone involved in evangelism or mission. These can be downloaded from the talking Jesus website www.talkingjesus.org or purchased from CPO at www.cpo.org.uk or telephone on 01903 263354.

Please consider familiarising yourself with the reports and perhaps drawing them to the attention of your church leadership team to help in their planning for mission and evangelism.



Purley on Thames Mission

September 2018

TFM will have contributed two small mission teams this autumn to work in conjunction with sub-teams put together by Roger Morgan, a man well-known to us and who was involved in TFM in the very early days. Roger equips and mentors pastors around the country and is called in by them to help with evangelism. Having joined our TFM team in Congleton, Cheshire, in 2015, Roger was convinced that door work using questionnaires hasn't had its day! The first mission, to Purley, took place in late September and the second, to Breaston, will be in October and there will be a report on that in our next newsletter.

Purley overall went well. The weekend began with two excellent acts - Daughters of Davis (singers) and the RISE Theatre group, who used mime to great effect. If you haven't seen their "Jesus the Photographer", please check it out on YouTube. Getting outsiders into Church proved difficult throughout the week, so these acts effectively entertained and encouraged the church, not least the youngsters present, testifying to God's goodness and setting the tone nicely for the hard work to come.

The locals also struggled rather to fill their Home Meetings with outsiders and some meetings were cancelled as a result. That said, when meetings did take place, they went well, with some people taking up Roger's Decision booklet and others, notably Barry the roofer, signing up immediately for Christianity Explored. Door work, by contrast, went well right from the off. Those locals who joined us were very positive about what they saw. I was delighted that their numbers included both the vicar, David Archer, and his Associate Minister, Andrew Mackie. So often, ministers use busyness or find other reasons not to get out onto the streets. Not true here, where David was so impressed by his parishioners' friendliness and openness that he intends to change his working schedule and go out with our questionnaire monthly.



On the doors, we met the usual range of atheistic scientists, other faiths including New Agers and many Catholics, from the UK and other European countries. Young mums were open to the Gospel, not least because God seems to employ their children in asking questions which parents can't answer! Young men were also very open to a line of thought and questioning which they had often never considered before. One young bus driver, Dean, was desperate to know more about the Bible and to go to Church, praying the prayer immediately. Another young man, James, had never prayed despite suffering from recurrent lymphoma, but was happy to accept prayer and read my book on God and cancer.

In total, 128 questionnaires were completed. This may sound trifling, and indeed out of 3,000 houses, much work remains to be done! But quality is the key; one afternoon, Rev. David and I spent two and a half hours talking to just three people in two houses: a young atheist and then a retired minister and his wife who'd lost their faith. God also prompted me to return to a man so burdened by guilt, for further prayer. This is why I'm always reluctant to state that the questions will only take a few minutes - or that there'll only be five in total! Again, we'd have liked to see more locals involved on the doors, and one learning point for future missions involves strongly encouraging locals to take time off work for missions - as we do.



Purley and Breaston - Training sessions

Training takes place prior to most of our missions. I would like to share a new approach, championed by the overall mission leader, Roger Morgan and which we trialled in Purley and Breaston, prior to the two autumn missions. Three Saturday morning training sessions took place in each of these areas, with topics decided by Roger and which allowed me - and the TFM'ers who joined us for the last practical session, to experience a different teaching package.

On the first Saturday morning, Roger and I gave seven (half hour) talks alternately. The next Saturday, the locals received the same talk titles, but given by the opposite speaker. This reinforced the message of how to achieve fruitfulness, whilst allowing talks to be done quite differently each time! The 3rd Saturday morning was divided into two halves - follow-up (from Roger) and my practical session on using our Questionnaire.

Talks were as follows ...

- Fruitful people have a love for others and are good listeners
- Fruitful people live close to Jesus (How to sustain being a STAY evangelist)
- Fruitful people know how to share their testimonies
- Fruitful people are keen to communicate the gospel: taking risks for God
- Fruitful people are whole-hearted in every way (not just evangelism)
- Fruitful people know how to simply present the gospel
- Fruitful people are strategic and make plans
- Follow-up
- How to use a faith questionnaire (practical session)

The practical session, as ever, proved both essential and encouraging. Prior to the May mission in Uppingham, TFM-ers took locals into the market square. Just over an hour later they returned, with locals feeding back with amazement how well the session had gone. In both Purley and Breaston, the result was the same, allowing locals to feel more confident in opening their mouths for God.

We will adopt the same approach in Roger's next mission, to Bedworth (near Coventry), next autumn - and I'll use the best of what I've learnt to bolster my own teaching approach elsewhere. Encouragingly, in meeting Eve Tate's church elders in Chatteris recently, many have experience already of using a questionnaire; an unusual advantage ahead of next October's mission there!

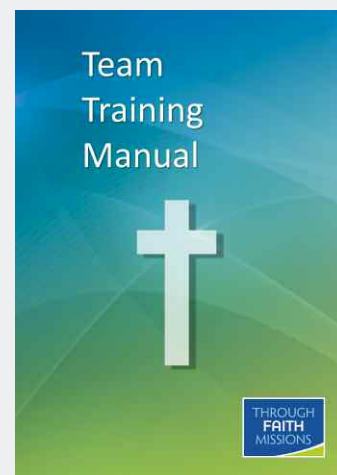
Richard Scott

Big events during the week allowed Roger to demonstrate his technique of giving talks in small bites. He employed this method in Congleton, previously, and used it to good effect here. Men were challenged at a Science and God evening, with conversation in chunks flowing around the table. The vicar asked Dan, an ex-crack and heroin addict, to give his testimony. Experience sometimes trumps head knowledge. In sections, Roger also challenged those at the Guest service to consider how we tackle stress, whilst dancers at the Ceilidh were invited to take their mountains to the Prayer team. Several responded and saw some physical mountains, in particular painful knees, healed - something we'd noted in the earlier Healing service too.

I'd like to thank the other three TFM-ers for their work this week. Roz Haycock could only be with us for three days, leaving to join Roger's mission in Hungerford half-way through. Ade Prescott and Sally Bolton were picked particularly for their ability with children. Ade spent practically his entire week in childrens' work, whilst Sally negotiated the doors as well. Thanks and so well done!

Follow-up, as ever, remains the most important part of any mission. Roger drilled us and the locals well - and we hope and pray that many of those responding will indeed attend Messy Church, ALPHA and Christianity Explored over the coming months.

Richard Scott



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Please tick a box below and complete your address details.

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- Please note my address change or email address below (need old address also)
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Roz's Highlights as TFM's Trainee Evangelist

The last 22 months have seen me travelling around the UK and the Republic of Ireland. I have been blessed to work with so many faithful Christians, both TFM and local church members. It is always amazing to witness the moment when a decision is made to commit a life to Jesus; there are a few that I will never forget, those ones where the Holy Spirit is there in such a powerful way that you just know that Jesus is standing there with you, holding their hand. I don't think that my heart has been touched so many times in such a short space of time as when hearing the testimonies of how Christ has and is affecting the lives of so many people, young and old, across the UK and around the world.

I have been increasingly encouraged during my time working alongside my own generation - the young adults who are passionate about the message of Jesus Christ - and seeing so many using their time at university not to party, but to see Jesus affect the lives of their friends.



A large part of my time has been used to undertake the SCE course, originally set up and run by TFM for training evangelists. I have found that this course has challenged me to think what it is that I actually believe and it has given me great biblical insights, as well as enhancing my ability to think critically and to go much deeper into the underlying meaning of the Bible passages. SCE has taught me a lot of things that I wouldn't have expected to have learned and I am grateful for all that it has offered.

It wouldn't be right not to mention my time in Uganda. That month was a time that I believe God gave me to witness lives filled with nothing but faith, to see what it truly looks like to trust God for all that you need. There isn't access to adequate medical care, food provisions, education or financial security, so prayer lives are something that people have to depend on. With all of this in mind, it was actually seeing how people read and digest the word of God that affected me the most, spending time with the young translators, seeing their Bibles, such prized possessions that have been used and 'over' used, and seeing the joy in their eyes when they talk about Jesus and the leap in their hearts when they quote verses from the Bible. It is easy to think that the Bible is important and that I must read it every day, but the lifelong lesson that I learned during my time in Uganda was that the Bible isn't a book to be read but a book that should be lived, with our every breath! This is something I have tried to put into practice in my life in the UK and, wow! what a difference it makes to your life, and to the encounters, interactions and messages God lays out in front of you, not only on mission but in the everyday.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who has supported me, whether this has been through prayer, encouragement or other means. These last 22 months have been a blessing and God has amazed me again and again in showing how many of his servants really do care. I have found out that as a Christian you are never alone, you not only have Christ but you also have his faithful family of followers. God bless you all! I look forward to hearing about your adventures with Jesus, the most faithful one of them all!

Roz