



Dear Friends,

Hope 2008 is a national campaign with a difference: it's an umbrella campaign for local Christians to use and adapt in their own context. And here in Hinckley we are certainly doing that.

One expression of this has been the setting up of Hinckley Street Pastors. So far, I have been out once in Hinckley, but by the time you read this, will have had my second experience here.

The main aim is to provide presence: to be there where the people are. In the context of the small hours on Saturday mornings it provides reassurance and help. The local police are keen to encourage this, and Leicestershire's Chief Constable Matt Bagot has provided enthusiastic support from the front.

Although what we do is not normally overt evangelism, but practical, caring support, sometimes the two overlap. One girl was upset by losing contact with her friends. One of our Street Pastors prayed with her a very short and simple prayer. And as soon as he left, her friends discovered her. Next time we saw her, she was keen to tell her friends about the Street Pastors, and introduce us to them.

It's very much a learning curve, and I, and all the other Street Pastors, very much value your prayers. One team or another will be out on the streets from 11pm Friday to 3am Saturday every week (with a half-hour break about 12.30pm for tea and prayer!). People come to support us with prayer 10.30-11.00pm at our base in the Salvation Army, and a rota of volunteers man that base from 10.30pm to 3.30am providing tea and prayer for us! We can be in touch with them and the Police CCTV base by walkie-talkie, throughout.

Hinckley's other spectacular for *Hope 2008* is the event for the afternoon of Sunday 22 June at the Marston Stadium. This is a major happening and is the event you will certainly regret missing

if you can't get there.

We have a very strong line-up. Starting local, we have Bruce Nadin, the chaplain of Leicester City Football Club. I have known Bruce for many years, and can guarantee you a great communicator. Steve Legge is, I'm told, a Christian escapologist, a sort of Houdini. I don't know whether he will be in chains at the bottom of a tank or whatever, but we should have an extraordinary spectacle!

Rosemary Conley is the world-famous diet, health and fitness expert. She is also a Christian with a clear and helpful testimony. When I managed to get her to come to an event in Oadby back in 1994, her talk was the turning point for several people in the church where I was minister and other churches. Some of these people made their commitment to Christ, and have gone on to be leaders in the churches.

Elaine Storkey is our other main internationally known guest. She is a great conference speaker, and was the high profile speaker for several of our sessions at this year's Baptist Assembly. She also features regularly on BBC's *Thought for the Day*. She is an author of various books, including her very good early book, *What's Right With Feminism?* which gave a brilliant exposition of one of the important issues of our time, and showed how a person can be an evangelical Christian and a feminist of the reforming kind. Showing how her faith is very practical, she heads up TEAR Fund, which work has taken her to many places in the world, to encourage the work of helping people who are in great need in a very direct and practical way, and in the name of Christ.

One memory she gave us at the Assembly was of a Radio discussion, where she was with an imam and a rabbi. All was very polite, and the rabbi and imam shared something of the practical expression of their faiths, when she was asked a subtly different question: And what do you need to do to be right with God? Put that way (or something similar), the Christian recognises that there is nothing we can do to earn God's favour; however, Christ has done what is necessary on the cross. The imam was horrified, and the debate proved furious, until the rabbi told him that this was just the way these Christians were. They really believe in grace, and that faith is not our works, but our trust in

Jesus. And, we might add, the works of love *follow* as a result. God loves us, and therefore we love him and love our neighbour. Not: we love God and our neighbour and therefore God loves us.

I have not told this story as well as Elaine does. But I am sure that if you are there, whatever we are given will be top quality.

This is the event to encourage your friends and family to attend. There will be plenty for all the family. See the publicity posters for more – and make sure you come along!

Anthony Thacker

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK



This newsletter is a bit like a Midland Red Bus – you don't see one for ages and then there are two!!

I apologise if this edition seems earlier than it should be, it's due to two factors. The first Sunday in the month happens to be the 1st June (whereas the first Sunday in May was 4th). The second factor is that we won't be here to produce the Newsletter later in the month as we are off touring Scotland for about five weeks. So, keeping the theme of the Midland Red Bus – I'm afraid you will not see another Newsletter until September!

As many of you know Brian felt well enough to join the XYZ on our Surprise Trip on 13th May. However, since then, I'm very sorry to report Brian has felt very unwell. Please keep Brian, Anne and the family close to your heart in your prayers.

Whilst talking of family news, please uphold David and Zaynor, and all the wider family, as I'm so sorry to have to tell you that Steven, David's brother, died on Saturday, 24th May. Steven was 36 years old and leaves his wife, Marianne, and two children, Matthew, age 7 and Kaitlin, age 3.

On Sunday 11th May Pentecost was celebrated in Argents Mead with music from 2.30, a BBQ and a service commencing at 4.30pm. We

didn't make it to the music and BBQ but arrived just as the service was starting. There were a lot of people there, and praising God in the open in glorious sunshine was indeed a blessing.



Open air Service in Argents Mead

We've also had the privilege of listening to John and Norma Clarke as they visited us during the Leicester South West Missionary Link-up. John and Norma are retiring as Missionaries of 41 years and we were pleased to be able to present a bouquet and a monetary contribution to their retirement. David and Lilian Owen kindly agreed to write something of John and Norma's work – see *their contribution on page 9*

On 20th May, at the XYZ's usual meeting, we jogged our memories of our Paris trip by watching a DVD presented by Johnnie. There's no stopping Dorothy now that she has stretched our wings beyond England – I believe we are off to Bruges next year!

Dorothy kindly agreed to write 'a bit' about our Paris visit – see *page 10*

BRaille

I wonder how many of you know that a BRaille service sheet has been produced for many years now for John Hall. Whilst I was working at RNIB, this was no problem as one of my responsibilities was ensuring the College Training Office was manned by our visually impaired adults. The production of the Braille service sheet met some of the criteria for the NVQ the students were working towards. However, like most things, changes have occurred which means John only receives his service sheet on odd occasions and the future does not look good. I've been in touch with the Assistant Principal who tells me that production may have to stop because of the decline in able adult students. I've made enquiries through VISTA and the cost to provide a weekly service sheet is around £5-£10 per service depending

on whether or not it is prepared for Braille before sending it to them. As a consequence of this development, I have been in touch with the Inner Wheel (through Sidonie Dryburgh) who have agreed to take this on as a fund-raising project to enable us to purchase the necessary software and machinery to produce our own Braille output. The first fund-raising event will be a Fish and Chip supper at The Cottage in Aston Flamville (Sidonie's home) in late July. Please try to support this event – we'll give more details a little nearer to the time.

I want to thank all the contributors for their support and enthusiasm and for those who have not yet contributed – now is your chance. We'd all love to hear about your particular interest, holiday or area of work within the church.

CONTRIBUTION BY ALAN FINCH

A Christian Bear

An atheist was walking through the woods admiring all that the accident of evolution had created.

"What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals!" he said to himself. As he was walking alongside the river he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him. He turned to look. He saw a 7ft grizzly charge towards him. He ran as fast as he could up the path. He looked over his shoulder and saw that the bear was closing on him. He ran even faster, so scared that tears were coming into his eyes. He looked over his shoulder again, the bear was even closer. His heart was pumping frantically and he tried to run even faster. He tripped and fell to the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up but saw the bear right on top of him, reaching for him with his left paw and raising his right paw to strike him.

At that instant the atheist cried out, "Oh God...!"

Time stopped. The bear froze. The forest was silent. Even the river stopped running. As a bright light shone upon the man, a voice came out of the sky, "You deny my existence for all of these years, teach others I don't exist, and even credit creation to a cosmic accident. Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?"



The atheist looked directly into the light. "It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask You to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps could you make the bear a Christian?"

"Very well," said the voice. The light went out. The river ran again, and the sounds of the forest resumed, and then the bear dropped his right paw, brought both paws together, bowed his head and spoke:

"Lord, for this food which I am about to receive, I am truly thankful.."

NOMADS LIFEGROUP

It's a long time since you've heard from us so we thought we would update you. We've grown a bit just lately and we are now 13 strong so even when people are on holiday etc, we are still quite a large group.

Last November we started studying James and as we only meet once a fortnight, this took us quite a long time. There was much discussion and discovery as we progressed through each chapter. We all found some of it hard to take as James speaks 'straight from the belt'. Never to be daunted, after a couple of 'one-off' sessions we've started looking at The Beatitudes. Although we all must have read them a hundred times, looking at the meaning of the first three has been illuminating and we are looking forward to reading the next three with a little more understanding. (We can only cope with 3 at a time!)



We wouldn't want you all to think we are such a serious group that we can't have fun – this is just not the case!! Each session is such good fellowship and we are able to support each other so much more now that we all know each other better. Most

sessions include an opening 'bit' which is part learning, part fun (as you can see from the picture).

We would love to pray more knowledgably about the other Lifegroups, so why not write something

in the Newsletter to let us know what you are all up to.

Janet & Ron Ashton, Linda & Roger Copeland, Judy Munro, Shirley Raven, Ron Raine, Sue and Alan Payne, David & Gill Eves, Wendy & Johnnie Lamsdon.

THE AGENT OF CHANGE

BY JOHN CHISUM

A contribution from Paul Gilliver



As the Sam Cooke song says, “A Change is Gonna Come,” but it doesn’t come through resolve or even hard work. It comes by God’s grace through what He desires most.

Every year by early February many people become discouraged with their New Year’s resolutions. Thousands of well-meaning dieters and would-be ex-smokers come face to face with the reasons they were overweight and addicted in December, or else scrambling for any excuse they can find to justify their continued behaviour.

Change is hard. If any habit is so bad that we have to make a resolution about it, chances are it’s not going to be an easy one to break. My heart goes out to every person who needs to lose weight, quit smoking, or become a better person in any way. I’ve been in some of those same places myself, desperately needing change in my own life, and I can sympathise with the feelings of helplessness and even depression that accompanies an inability to make a personal change. The only consistently powerful agent of change I’ve ever found in my own life is authentic worship.

Worship, in its essence, is God’s means of grace to change us. He has so designed this most important activity of all mankind that it not only glorifies Him, it literally transforms us into His image – it brings about powerful and lasting change in us as human beings. John Piper, in his most excellent book *Let the Nations Be Glad: The Supremacy of God in Missions*, has helped us to see that “Missions is not God’s ultimate goal, worship is” (p. 15). While authentic, universal worship may seem to be eclipsed by the upheavals of nations and the fleeting trends of culture (even religious culture), Piper invites us to reckon with the Scriptural tenet that “All of history is moving toward one

great goal, the white-hot worship of God and His Son among all peoples of the earth” (p. 15). Any “white-hot worship” will not leave the worshipper unchanged. It is beyond belief that we can come and go from our so-called “worship services” and not be disturbed by the presence of Almighty God. At any rate, God has promised to bring all things together through Jesus Christ unto Himself in worship (see Ephesians 1).

While God may be busy calling all nations to worship Him (see Psalm 86:9), He’s also busy transforming us, or changing us, into His likeness. 2 Corinthians 3: 17-18 says “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit”(NIV). The glory comes from and is the Lord. The Spirit is the Lord and the Lord is the Spirit. He does the transforming. In His transforming is freedom, a change from the bondage of the old to the liberty of the new. It is all His own work of grace in our lives and it happens as we behold Him with “unveiled faces” (see the context for more on this) and as we begin to “reflect the Lord’s glory”. In other words, as we gaze on Him in worship, we become like Him!

Worship is nothing new, of course. This concept of becoming like whatever you worship isn’t new, either, and is at the root of every warning God ever made against idolatry. In fact, idolatry itself is nothing but worshipping anything that isn’t God. Idolatry is forbidden for the simple reason that He loves us and wants to spare us from the terrible consequences of worshipping anything unworthy of our worship – amazing! Idolatry and genuine worship are matters of the heart, the inner man, the spirit that is in us, and only we know the true score on the inside. Proverbs 23:7 says, “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...” and Jesus said in Matthew 5:27-28 when speaking on adultery, “But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (NIV). This is the same concept – whatever we value the most in our hearts is what we actually worship – there is absolutely no difference between what we really think on the inside and what we are worshipping. Worship is literally the act of giving value, ascribing worth, to something or to someone. As we think, so are we.

If we want change, lasting change, in our lives we must change the way that we think first. No one will lose weight continuing to think the way

that they thought about food while putting on all that weight. No one will quit smoking until they deal with the addictive behaviour behind the smoking. No one will truly worship God until they understand that worship is an act of giving God the highest value in their lives – spirit, soul, and body. I actually quit smoking as a teenager coming to Christ through worshipping Him authentically and allowing His Spirit to break the addictive power of nicotine in my life. I had to exercise the new-found will to please Him every day in saying no to cigarettes to be completely free from them, of course, and I've been free for thirty years now.

If we think singing songs is all there is to worship, we will never be transformed into His likeness. If we, however, live to give Him the highest praise, the net effect is that we will begin to be transformed into His likeness and changes will automatically begin to occur – old bondages will fall away – and we will reflect the Lord's glory in every way. Don't stop eating well and going to the gym and think that you'll be thin and fit. Don't stop loving Him with all of your heart, giving Him the highest value in your life, while expecting lasting change and the consistent joy of knowing Him in any meaningful way. We become like what we look at the most, this is the Biblical principle of authentic worship versus idolatry – when we gaze most often on a doughnut we'll start to look like one! Never fear, though – if you are like me and the many millions of people who could stand to lose a few pounds, keep in mind that authentic worship can even inspire us to take better care of the physical “temple of the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 6:19), our bodies, when we understand from the Scriptures that God Himself lives in us in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

John Chisum is a core instructor for Integrity's Worship Institute and a clinician for Integrity's Seminars4Worship. He is President of Firm Foundation Worship Ministries which offers Worship4Life weekends as an encouraging workshop for local churches.

PHIL STOCK

Andy and Elaine Stock are pleased to let you know that Phil was baptised recently and, with Phil's permission, they have sent his testimony for you to read.



Morning and thank you for being here today as I tell you about how the God who created the heavens and earth chose to send his only perfect son to die on a cross for my past, present and future sins so that I, an imperfect sinner, could be with Him for eternity – what mercy and grace!

A few months ago a visiting preacher, Hugh Hill, compared our Christian walk with running a race – this really hit home with me as I realized that for 24 years of my life I hadn't even made it out of the blocks, in fact I was a false starter running off in the opposite direction. For 24 years I ran my life as I saw fit based upon what I thought was right. I was wrong

I was brought up in a loving, Christian household attending church every week and thinking I was a Christian because I prayed that I would score a hat trick each week! But I knew inside me that I was missing something – I felt unworthy, never satisfied, unsuccessful. I tried to fill this with striving to achieve in sport, university and relationships but these never filled the void, but caused me to sin and do things, which hurt God. I wanted to be popular so I could feel accepted; I yearned for a relationship, which could fill this hole in my life.

At 19 I got engaged in hindsight because I was so insecure and yearned to feel what I thought was love. I hoped marriage would fulfill this need – it didn't. Our marriage broke down and I fell into a spiral of sin and lies. I sinned against my wife, parents and friends but most importantly God. I was at my lowest, weakest point in my life and when I needed him the most he grabbed hold of me and showed me the meaning of love. Love isn't a feeling or emotion or selfishly what I can get from someone; it's an action, a sacrifice for someone else. He showed me this by offering me a relationship, which could fill the void in my life. I realized that God loved me so much that he gave his only perfect son as sacrifice for me

so that I wouldn't die and go to hell but instead be with him in heaven for eternity. What greater love can there be?

I struggled massively though with the guilt of my sins, how I had hurt so many people and the consequences of what I had done. I moved home to be with my parents in Hinckley and attended Knighton Evangelical Church in Leicester about this time last year. One particular Sunday Andrew Upton, the minister spoke on Psalm 51, which is a plea for mercy from God and a prayer of forgiveness, it reads: 'Have mercy on me O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin'. During the service I prayed this prayer of forgiveness and afterwards flew down the aisle knocking old ladies left, right and centre to talk this through with Andrew. I later gave my life to Christ, I appealed for mercy and asked for forgiveness for my sins and through his atoning sacrifice on the cross my guilt was lifted, the sins were taken off my shoulders and onto Christ. What greater love can there be?

I was also shown true love through my parents – I had hurt them tremendously, yet they put my feelings before their own and showed me true Christian love and I want to thank the Lord for them. I would also like to thank my friends and family at West St who have welcomed me into the church blessing and loving me more than I could ever describe and to Mark, our minister for allowing the Lord to speak through him in those early months when my heart was broken

People say now you're a Christian Phil you can't do this and that; I say I've never been freer! I can now say no to getting drunk, wrong relationships and lust - before I became a Christian I couldn't say no! I prayed and continue to pray that God would change me and make me more like Jesus Christ, the only perfect man

And so now I am a Christian and put my trust in God for everything, I have so much uncertainty about the future but he knows the plan for my life and I trust him, it says in Proverbs 3: 5 – 6 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight'.

And so a year later I'm 25 and finally made it out of the blocks in a race marked out for me by Jesus Christ. I'm not running on my own though, I have the Holy Spirit inside me guiding me and enabling me to run every step of the way.

I know the race has already been won for me, a great sinner, by Jesus Christ, a great Saviour so that I can sprint with confidence fixing my eyes on eternity! What amazing grace!

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Rachel and Dave Moss.

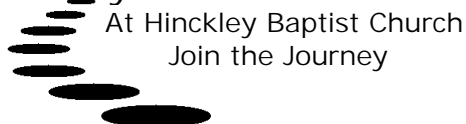
Rachel gave birth to a little boy – Leo, weighing in at 9lb 3oz on 14th May. We don't have a picture yet so we will all have to wait until the next Newsletter.

Hannah and Johnnie. Hannah gave birth to a little girl, Evie Grace on 22nd May, weighing in at 9lb 2oz.



We have a picture of Evie Grace but not of her Mum and Dad as yet, but we do have one of the grandparents – don't they look chuffed?

The Pathways Centre



At Hinckley Baptist Church
Join the Journey

Typically 10,000 people live within walking distance of most urban church buildings in the UK. Of these:

- 1,200 live alone, of whom 580 will be of pensionable age
- 1,500 people who talk to their neighbours less than once a week
- 50 people who have been divorced in the last year
- 375 people who are single parents
- 18 teenage girls who are pregnant
- 150 women who have contemplated or had an abortion recently
- 250 people who are unemployed
- 1,700 people living in a low-income household
- 1,100 people living with mental illness
- 100 people who were bereaved in the last year
- 2,700 people with no car
- 1,280 people caring for a sick, elderly or disabled friend or relative
- 40 people who are homeless or living in temporary accommodation
- 15 people who are asylum seekers¹

To read more on this subject read - Building a better world - Malcolm Duncan

We, as Christians, have a role in the lives of these people: we are called as followers of Jesus to spend time with the marginalised and vulnerable. We are called to get alongside these people. We are called to become the change we want to see in the lives of these peoples. And yet, we confess, that we sometimes lack the fervour or maybe the knowledge of how to get alongside these people. What do I say, how do I help them? Often it seems just too difficult so we avoid the situations in the first place. But if we do this then are we truly living a Christian life?

In Pathways we are actively inviting onto our premises people who fall into one or many of the above categories, yet if I'm honest, I still wonder are really up to the challenge we have set ourselves, I wonder if we really do want to get alongside these people, are we prepared to make ourselves vulnerable in order to see the change Christ can make in these peoples lives. As I churn the question over I come up with the

answer - yes I honestly believe we do want to get alongside these people and show them that the church is not here for its own benefit but to serve others, but maybe the real question is not 'do we want to get alongside them' but rather 'how do we get alongside them?'

Over the next few weeks there will be 2 or 3 of us who will be seeking God's guidance on how to put into place a framework to enable us as a church to be more confident in getting alongside people and supporting them. I believe it will be a vital ingredient of Pathways Volunteers and essential to the lifeblood of the project if we are to be more than just an accommodation venue to people within this community.

Things to get excited about!

MIND start on the premises on the 2nd June. They will be using the centre for a social drop in group from 9:30pm – 2:30pm on a Monday. Currently they hold all their groups on their own premises but are developing more off-site activities. It is a development group so please pray they will quickly settle in and feel at home. They are currently seeking help with funding to give them long term security in the venue so please pray the funding will quickly be secured for them.

We are in the final stages of negotiation with Millfield Day Centre and they are putting together plans of how they can use Pathways.

They are awaiting funding approval from the local authority so please pray this will be soon forthcoming.



Afterschool Club for Holliers Walk.

We have undertaken a questionnaire from Holliers Walk and are putting together a research report on what afterschool care

provision is already in place and where the gaps are. This is to help us gain funding from the Leicestershire County Council. Please pray that God will guide us and make it clear what sort of provision we should be looking towards. Also please pray that that God will raise up Christian leaders for this is Club.

A leaflet drop will be done in the local surrounding area at the beginning of June showcasing our Centre and advertising what is already going on, pray it will be well received and we will start to get onto people's radar.

Also there are those projects bubbling away in the early stages please pray about them as we undertake research and look to see if they are viable work with Hinckley Homeless Group, a computer club, a prayer room, drop in coffee morning, lunchtime café, church on the margins

Susan Steer
Acting Pathways Development Manager

COFFEE, CAKES AND COMPUTERS



Do you sometimes feel that the world of computers has passed you by? Were you born in the age of steam trains (that ran on time!), radiograms and 78rpm 12 inch records? Do you remember when the

television closed down at nine o'clock with the playing of the National Anthem and that familiar white dot when you switched off?

More to the point, would you like to get to know how to use a computer, learn what an email is and how to send one? Learn how to use the internet and how to write a letter using a word processing program? If so you may be interested in joining the 'Coffee, Cakes and Computer Club'.

If there is sufficient interest we are hoping to start such a group in the late autumn in the Pathways Centre at HBC but before we start looking for funding we do need to know if there is enough interest.

The Club would probably run on Wednesday afternoons in the Main Hall and we would hope to have at least six computers. It would be a non-threatening non-intimidating introduction to basic computing and could accommodate anything that the group would like to learn. It could cover such things as using the internet to do home shopping, how to use a digital camera with a computer and anything else that would be of interest to those coming to the group.

If you think you may be interested in joining such a group please let us know and, with the help of Sue Steer, we will begin the process of looking for the funding to get us started.

Johnnie & Alan

CAROLYN'S THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

VERSE: Galatians 5:24

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

THOUGHT:

When we became Christians, we died to the old person of sin and were raised up a new person. While we have many of the same battles with temptation, we also now have the power of the resurrection and the Holy Spirit at work within us to help us.

ANOTHER THOUGHT FOR THE DAY....

OUT OF THE WRECK I RISE

Romans 8:35

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? God does not keep a man immune from trouble; He says - "I will be with him in trouble." It does not matter what actual troubles in the most extreme form get hold of a man's life, not one of them can separate him from his relationship to God. We are "more than conquerors in all these things."

Paul is not talking of imaginary things, but of things that are desperately actual; and he says we are super-victors in the midst of them, not by our ingenuity, or by our courage, or by anything other than the fact that not one of them affects our relationship to God in Jesus Christ. Rightly or wrongly, we are where we are, exactly in the condition we are in.

I am sorry for the Christian who has something in his Circumstances he wishes was not there. "Shall tribulation...?" Tribulation is never a noble thing; but let tribulation be what it may - exhausting, galling, fatiguing, it is not able to separate us from the love of God. Never let

cares or tribulations separate you from the fact that God loves you.

"Shall anguish...?" - can God's love hold when everything says that His love is a lie, and that there is no such thing as justice?

"Shall famine...?" - can we not only believe in the love of God but be more than conquerors, even while we are being starved?

Either Jesus Christ is a deceiver and Paul is deluded, or some extraordinary thing happens to a man who holds on to the love of God when the odds are all against God's character. Logic is silenced in the face of every one of these things. Only one thing can account for it - the love of God in Christ Jesus.

"Out of the wreck I rise" every time.

OUR LINK-MISSIONARIES

(Contribution from Lilian and David Owen)

It is some years since John and Norma Clarke first visited Hinckley Baptist as our new link-missionaries. They had already served over 30 years in Brazil, latterly at Fortaleza in the North East. John was recovering from heart surgery. They could not lead a service but John just said a few words to introduce themselves.

They returned to Fortaleza in due course and BMS sent us their prayer letters – few and far between. BUT . . . there was an e-mail address we could contact if we wished to receive their "Snippets". We tried this and the snippets arrived regularly at the end of each month. They consisted of several short items often with one or two photographs. We read of college students, landslides, celebrations local and national, pre-school classes, the election of a president, the members of their family etc etc. Their work and surroundings really came alive, making it much easier to uphold them in prayer.

Something like three years ago John and Norma visited Hinckley again. They took an evening service showing pictures of the Brazil they knew and telling of how God had worked there. They were due to retire but BMS requested they stay on for several years to start a work in Ecuador one of Brazil's neighbours. They had agreed to this and were already beginning to learn Spanish after thinking in Portuguese for so many years.

The snippets continued to come. They were able to visit a Spanish speaking church in London and reported they could understand a good deal of what was said. Their home

assignment drew to a close but there was a hold up. The visas required for Ecuador were not ready. After quite a wait the October snippets arrived with the heading VISA GRANTED

So they returned and were able to set up home in a flat in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Their job was to contact the existing churches with a view to starting a training programme for interested church leaders. As senior mission workers they were also to offer support to brand new workers such as Peter and Vicki Butchers and their four children. (Our secretary invited the Butchers to visit Hinckley before they left for Ecuador but they were not able to come.)



On Sunday 18th May 2008, John and Norma paid their last official visit to us. They have finally retired at least from being on the mission field, though the Lord will surely have something else in mind for them before long. As yet they have no home in England and so have asked us to join with them in urgent prayer that somewhere will be found very soon. We look forward to hearing from them again and hope their snippets will continue.

For ourselves BMS are offering us Scott and Anjanette Williamson, another husband and wife team, as our future link-missionaries. They are preparing to work in Peru which lies immediately south of Ecuador. Perhaps they can visit us before they go.

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2008

This initiative has been going a little while and has had good coverage in the Baptist Times recently. So what is it?

Back to Church Sunday is an opportunity for a Church to personally invite those who have had connections with them to 'come back'. This has

been discussed at the Deacons' Meeting and was met with enthusiasm and the suggestion of Sunday lunch following the morning service. Of course this can happen on any Sunday, we don't have to wait for a special date to do it but the announcement of a 'special Sunday' has prompted us to take action. Please pray about this in a variety of ways: that the date will be a 'convenient' one for those invited; that God will place our hearts those He would have us invite; that God would make us a welcoming church and most of all that those invited would hear God's prompting to worship again.

Please highlight the date in your diaries.

OPPORTUNITY TO SPONSOR HELEN

On Sunday July 6th a group of tutors from Leicester College will be taking part in the "Race for Life", a fundraiser for Cancer Research, in Leicester.

We will be doing this in support of our colleague Jan Moore, who is presently receiving treatment for cancer. Jan is a member at Hugglescote Baptist Church.

If anyone would like to sponsor me for this event - our group is all of a certain age and will be "ambling" rather than "racing"! - please let me know on hthacker@ntlworld.com or catch me when you see me.

Many thanks!

Helen Thacker

PARIS IN THE SPRING

On April 22nd at 7.00am 23 of us set off in a Coach for the very impressive new St. Pancras Station. We arrived in good time and after Coffee boarded Eurostar, after a very comfortable journey and exactly on time we arrived at an equally impressive Station – The Gare du Nord in Paris.

We then had our first experience of The Metro (Underground) we were soon experts at finding our way around – I led from the rear shouting don't leave me! After booking in at our Hotel we split into smaller groups and went our separate ways to explore the delights and food of Paris.

Our group went to the banks of the River Seine by the Eiffel Tower – we didn't want to go in the lift so we climbed the 1,710 steps to the top (I do

tell fibs!!) we admired the magnificent structure from below, and saw it later all lit up with its thousands of lights, after a meal we went for a boat trip in the dark and saw all the wonderful buildings and Bridges lit up.

The next morning was a bit hectic for me, I set the alarm on my mobile nice and early but it didn't know it was in France!! So went off an hour later - however didn't miss breakfast - Barbara wrapped a Ham Roll and a boiled Egg in a serviette for me! We then went on the Metro to the Coach Station to go on a City Tour (not on the early one as intended but a later one for obvious reasons!) this was very interesting, we had a fleeting view of most of the main buildings in Paris and realised how impressive they all are.

After being all together for the tour we then separated into smaller groups, some went for culture in the Art Galleries like the Louvre and some to Notre-Dame whilst the energetic ones strolled through some beautiful gardens and along The Champs Elysees with its flower beds and trees as well as shops, this brought us to The Arc de Triomphe another famous Paris Landmark.

On the morning of the third day – and sadly last – we again went in groups and did our own thing, our group went to Sacre-Coeur, a magnificent Church built on the highest point in Paris, so we had the experience of a panoramic view of the whole city, we then walked through the Artists' Quarter where there were dozens of people painting and sketching. After lunch we walked back to Gare du Nord to get the Train, this station is very modern and efficient inside, but approaching on foot you see it in all its glory, more like a Royal Palace than a Station.

We had another pleasant journey back to St Pancras where our Driver was waiting to take us to the Coach so all went very smoothly, we arrived back in Hinckley at 9.00pm tired but very happy.

When I struggled out of bed at 6.00am on the morning that we left I thought why am I doing this - I hate cities and crowds - I'm a Lakes and Mountains person! but I wouldn't have missed this experience it was wonderful! The Architecture in Paris is magnificent - not only the famous public buildings, but even the residential parts and shops are all very pleasing, I didn't see any houses they were all apartments – bit like Hinckley really! But all different and well designed, now I know why it is the number one

tourist attraction in the world. Paris is very spacious and you are not really aware of the crowds except for some close encounters on the Metro in the rush hour! The Metro is very efficient except that they don't believe in escalators - never climbed so many steps before! Our intrepid Church Secretary and Mr. C.S. walked everywhere, are you impressed?

We were very blessed with the weather, and good fellowship, and everything seemed to work out well. The following Sunday all I heard was 'Wonderful' Where next? So God willing, Bruges here we come!

SPARK ignited!

We have almost completed the OT (having already read through the NT) and throughout, but particularly since reading Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel we have been struck by God's patience and long-suffering towards His people in their sin and rebellion. His desire for them to recognise their sin and turn from their wicked ways or face the consequences, is matched with His deep love and compassion for them.

We are currently reading through the Minor Prophets, Hosea, Joel and Amos and God is opening our eyes to the inevitability of comparing Israel's waywardness to the state of our nation...

So corporately, we sense we should be considering earnestly praying and fasting for spiritual leadership in our country and for politicians who confess to be Christians that they will be prepared to stand up and be counted.

In a recent interview, the head of the Roman Catholic church said that this country is 'spiritually dead'. How true.

We may not as a small group be able to reverse this trend but by Spirit-led intercession God CAN do what we diligently ask of Him. 'The prayer of a righteous man has a powerful effect' James 5:16

The following scriptures are a basis for our intercession:

Jer 42. Read the whole chapter

Ezekiel 22:30- 'I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none'

Ezekiel 33:7- 'Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from Me'

Hosea 10:12- 'For it is time to seek the Lord'

Hosea 12:6- 'But you must return to your God; maintain love and justice and wait for your God always'

Habakkuk 2:2-3 -'For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and not delay'

If after having read this you also sense God revealing something you would like to share with any of us...please do! We look forward to your contributions.

Marion (with special thanks to Alan F)

YOUTH PRAISE 2008

'God made the Earth - and it was good!' This is our theme for Youth Praise taking place on Sunday 29th June 10.45am. We do hope you will be able to join us.

Following the service those of you that want to are welcome to gather at Burbage Common for a Picnic, weather permitting (please listen out for an announcement on Youth Praise Sunday) anytime after 1.00pm.

July 6th will be our last SALT meeting before the Summer break.

Throughout the break we do run a SummerSalt for those aged between 4-11 (the 0-4 Sunbeams runs throughout the year) which will take place in the Main Hall /Atrium area, all other groups remain in the service.

I am listing the arrangements as they stand at the moment but do keep your eyes on the weekly notice sheets as amendments will be detailed there.

July 13 th	SummerSalt
July 20 th	All Age Service with Bob Simpson
July 27 th	Preaching Group All age?
Aug 3 rd	SummerSalt
Aug 10 th	SummerSalt
Aug 17 th	SummerSalt
Aug 24 th	Preaching Group all age?
Aug 31 st	Bank Holiday All Age service
Sept 7 th	Promotion and New Salt Groups

As you are aware I stand down from Director of Salt after the summer. We are looking to recruit and should you wish to talk to me about the role or any other aspect of serving in the departments I will be happy to speak to you.

Lesley Muggleton

Carolyn's Joke Box

A boat crashed into the rocks and began to sink.

"Does anybody know how to pray?" shouted the skipper.

"Yes I do", said a zealous Christian, leaping to his feet.

"Good", said the skipper. "you pray. The rest of us will put on life jackets, we're one short."

.....

Argument in a playground:

First Boy: My Daddy is a teacher and makes me clever for nothing!

Second Boy: My Daddy is a doctor and makes me healthy for nothing!

Third Boy: My Daddy is a vicar and makes me good for nothing!

Ian Arnold



I haven't owned a bike for over 20 years but I, along with 2 friends Dave & Clive have decided to cycle from Lands End to John O'Groats. This is a journey of over 1000 miles in a total of 13 days. Please check out our web-site, it can be found at.

www.bottomup.co.uk

Whilst on route I would like to raise as much money as possible for Pathways. This is a community centre based in Hinckley town centre. Donations received will ensure that the newly opened centre is kitted out adequately. Plans are under way to have an after school club, coupled with new groups dealing with issues of homelessness, those on low incomes, social exclusion and disabilities.

My donation page can be found at

www.bmycharity.com/ianarnold



The above has been taken from Ian's blog. The ride begins on July 6th and finishes on July 19th. You can also sponsor Ian from our website www.hinckleybaptist.com

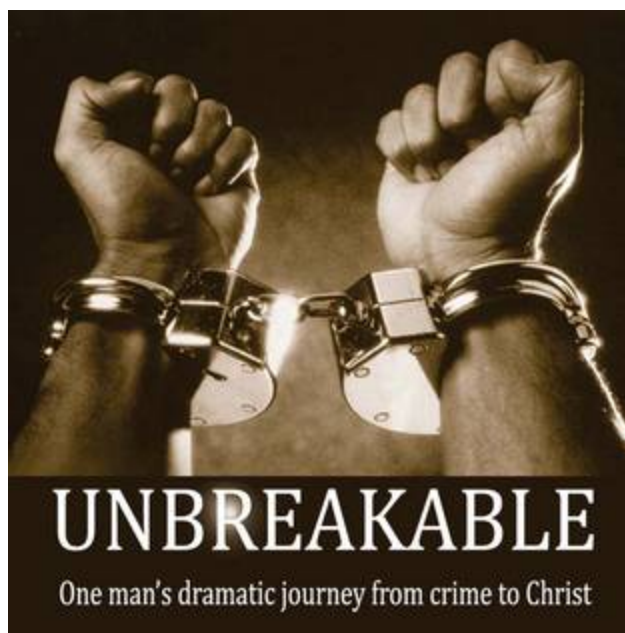
ERIC

Please remember to pray for our young people especially as we prepare for Soul Survivor at the end of July. This has the potential to be life-changing. Five of ERIC and two other young people not involved with Hinckley Baptist have committed to come, but there may be more from both ERIC and ERIC+. Pray that God would bring all those He wants to be there. Pray that He would be preparing their hearts for all He

wants to do. Ask God if He wants you to pray for specific young people and you can come and ask me for a list, either commit to pray for them during Soul Survivor... or even cooler - for the next year (or more). You don't have to know them to give them this amazing gift of your intercession!

UNBREAKABLE

by Steve Cattell and Lindy Greaves (aka Lindy Binder) will be available to buy week commencing 9th June 2008.



It has been a long process - I completed the manuscript more than a year ago, but I'm delighted that I will be able to see it complete - a real book, very soon. I hope to



do some kind of launch in the new Pathways Centre, with some of the proceeds of sales going to Pathways. I would love as many of you as possible to attend (and

bring your friends) so keep an ear out for a date.

The following tells you a little about the book...

The dramatic, life-changing story of Britain's most prolific criminal

From an early age, Steve is passionate about stealing and breaking into houses. Soon he is addicted to the criminal way of life. After twenty-four years behind bars with his third marriage about to fall apart, his closest friend – a heroin addict – becomes a Christian. Facing his longest sentence yet, Steve is challenged by the change in his friend's life, and finds himself wandering into a church. Over time, Steve gives up his life of crime and turns to Christ who not only sets him free from prison but from the life cycle he had been addicted to.

Lindy

BB CAMP

By the time you read this Newsletter the BB will be back from Camp (probably the wettest for years!). I can't tell you anything about camp but we were there when they



loaded the lorry – it looked as though they were packing enough food to feed the 5,000! However, I'm sure it all went. The first names of all the boys were split up amongst various people within the church as prayer lists with a plea to include all the officers and helpers too. I'm hoping I can persuade the Captain and/or some helpers to write about Camp for the next Newsletter in September.

ALSO

Clive sent the following photo of the Boys prior to their victory at the Battalion BB Race Walk on Monday 12th May.



GB CAMP

No, you haven't missed it – it's happening on 13th June for the week-end. I'm sure we will have a contribution for the September Newsletter, telling us all about it.

IN THE MEANTIME

take a while to pray and give thanks for all of our children, young people and youth leaders and if God is speaking to you to get involved – chat to any youth leader to find out more.

LATEST NEWS

Many of you will know Michael Starbuck, he comes very regularly to the evening service. Johnnie and I have known Michael since the 60s but we've always called him Stan! You'll have to ask us for an explanation of the reason why! Suffice to say, it has caused some confusion amongst those who attend the evening service.

Michael has a history of heart difficulties and a few months ago underwent a similar operation to Judy Munro. Unfortunately, the operation wasn't a success and it had to be repeated. To Michael's horror, he found out the second operation hadn't been a success either and he underwent a third operation on Wednesday, 28th May. Johnnie has spoken to him today (29th) – the operation has been a success and we pray for Michael's return to full health: please join us in that prayer.

Wendy and Johnnie

ACCIDENTS WILL HAPPEN!

I know it's a little naughty of me but I couldn't resist putting this picture of Anthony in the Newsletter. It's not the typical stance for someone leading the service!



For those who don't know – Anthony had a collision with Matt and Lindy's dog, Moby resulting in an injured knee (Moby's is fine, if you are wondering). Consequently, Anthony travelled down to BB camp with Stephen on Tuesday, 27th by train, returning by the same transport on the Friday. I'm sure you'll agree with me that Anthony deserves full marks for effort and we are all really pleased that his leg is getting a little better each day.

Wendy

REMINDER

Don't forget that you can now download the Newsletter on-line.

So if you missed last month's, it's there on our website just follow the links at

www.hinckleybaptist.com