

THROUGH FAITH MISSIONS

in partnership with local churches as they engage in mission

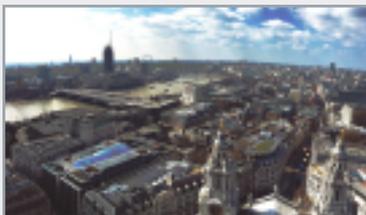
Newsletter



March 2017



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I'm in the fortunate position of being able to determine my schedule – at least to an extent! In the spirit of collaboration, if I'm prompted to see a particular leader of a church or organisation, God-willing, we meet up. I have my agenda, but am equally keen to hear what they have to say. The same applies to larger gatherings. This month, I've attended conferences for evangelists run by J. John and the FPE

(Fellowship for Parish Evangelists), ears and pen primed to record any gems, but also the prevailing themes in UK Christianity today. Add in the Word and commentators' thoughts, and there's a fair chance I might grasp what the Lord is saying!



Let's start with the Word. I've just returned to my daily prayer guide for doctors. This week, a Uruguayan doc pointed us to Nehemiah. Nehemiah's mission to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem was preceded by prayer – and what a prayer! *'Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favour in the presence of*

this man. I was cupbearer to the king.' (Neh Ch: 1v11). Nehemiah asks without any hesitation for success in his mission and just a little later, having inspected the broken-down walls and the gates that had been destroyed by fire, he took action, declaring: *'Come, let us rebuild the wall ... so they began this good work.'* When opposition showed up, mocking and ridiculing the work, Nehemiah simply

answered them with faith: *'the God of heaven will give us success. We, His servants, will start rebuilding (and you'll have no part of it)'* (Neh Ch: 2v11 – 20).

Very briefly, the teaching is clear, Nehemiah had a vision to which he was committed. He wasn't just a dreamer but was

completely involved and determined (we will rebuild). Note that this verse is written in the plural, for he needed support from the king, the governors of Trans-Euphrates and an army of workers. This support would prove crucial as he encountered obstacles and intimidating enemies along the way. But far more important was his confidence in God. The wall was rebuilt in fifty two days as those opposing the plan lost their self-confidence, *'because*

they realised that this work had been done with the help of our God' (Neh Ch: 6v16).

Dr Jorge Patpaton memorably described Nehemiah's vision as his motor. As nothing stopped him, nothing should stop us carrying out the vision for glorifying God through TFM. But what is our vision – and how is it progressing?

If you recall, the vision given to me before taking on the leadership was twofold: to train ordinary Christians to share their faith throughout Britain and continue our staple diet of delivering missions. I might say as an encouragement that many smaller missions are cropping up as well as aCross Britain opportunities – with conversations almost weekly. Good news, which brings us back to Nehemiah – and Joseph.

At J. John's conference, Dr Dave Smith from Kingsgate Church in Peterborough taught us lessons in the form of "3 Ps" from the life of Joseph. Joseph underwent (and needed!) many years of **Preparation** before God rapidly raised him from prison to power. He was **Promoted** to Prime Minister of Egypt, not despite the hard times but because he was faithful in adversity. Now finally ready to cope with all the influence and affluence he was given, he was **Productive**, but here's the point. In the wilderness and the darkest days of his life, Joseph never lost sight of his dream, even though in God's timing it was many years before his vision became reality.

For some years, TFM has been at a crossroads. 30 years down the line, our

very blessed organisation has struggled with the ravages of age with reduced numbers of staff evangelists, volunteer missionaries, prayer partners and now finances (see later). Even as faithful believers, it can be tempting to despair. Is our day done? It's not that the work isn't out there – or that missions are no longer applicable – that we do know! But more pertinently, is it a job for others? Have we passed our sell-by date?

I don't believe that's what Nehemiah teaches us. The vision for missions and training which I received nearly three years ago remains. Joseph's time of preparation was thirteen years. Moses had to wait forty years. The disciples needed on-the-job training for nearly four years before they were ready to be let loose solo. But as Dave Smith reminded us, preparation does NOT last forever. Over the second half of 2016, with much work in the Christmas period, the **aCross Britain** training package has been adapted and honed and is now ready to soar. I tried out a modified version at our first training day prior to the Uppingham mission coming up in May. Forty six locals attended, with others who couldn't come expected at the next training day in March. They will be supported, encouraged and practically taught by our twenty team members, but this emphasis on locals above "experts" is what **aCross Britain** is all about.

The time for preparation is done. I believe that God is now promoting us. Not only are more missions emerging, but God has

blessed **aCross Britain** with requests coming in from ministers as the word has gone out. In this regard, Roger Murphy's kind and forward-thinking suggestion that I speak at the FPE conference should not only help me, but be a win-win, providing the vicars and parish evangelists present with a new collaborative direction of travel in 2017 and beyond.

Without doubt, we've gone through a difficult patch. But I believe we are now rising up the other side. Let's not doubt or lose our nerve. The battle isn't ours primarily, but the Lord's. That said, just as Nehemiah had to work to fulfil his vision, so must we. We need missionaries to populate Autumn 2017 mission teams in Purley and Derby. We need others prepared to train locals practically in testifying and using our questionnaire on the streets in **aCross Britain** this year and we need more prayer and financial support. I have big dreams for TFM. As the work comes in, we will need more paid and unpaid evangelists. Hope 2018 is just emerging, aiming to increase each church congregation by 10%. That's good, but I want so much more – nothing less, in fact, than the re-evangelisation of Britain. There will be opposition, obstacles and even enemies. But we have the vision. We have the commitment. We are ready to play our part and we will have success, because our God fights our battles. When He says YES, we say Amen, Lord – do it!



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'Alive' Mission Uppingham and Belton Rutland May 13 – 21

In preparation for the May 'Alive' mission Richard Scott led a great training day at Uppingham Methodist church in January. We are now looking forward to a training weekend in March when we will continue encouraging the locals as well as providing training for 2 new comers and 4 refreshers from TFM all of whom will be involved as team members.

The response to the first event in January was very encouraging with 46 people present. Following an exercise in sharing testimony a number of people even gave their testimony in one of the churches the following day – a first for that church.

There will be three teams (8, 8 and a 4) totalling 20 people serving 4 churches in Uppingham and the parish church in Belton.



TFM Annual Conference 2017

Faith Sharing



With guest speaker

Steve Wade

National Director for My Hope

Billy Graham Evangelistic Association UK

Saturday 10th June

Gt Shelford Free Church

High Street, Great Shelford, CB22 5EH

Annual TFM Conference

This year TFM's annual conference will be on the subject of **Faith Sharing**. We are pleased to have as our speaker Steve Wade, a long term friend and supporter of TFM.

"Steve Wade is Director of Ministry for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in the UK. Married with two grown-up children, they have recently moved to Hertfordshire and attend Christ Church, Ware. Steve has previously served as a church leader, preaching and teaching, leading Alpha courses, youth and discipleship groups. He also has an extensive civic and business background, having helped lead the turnarounds at Argos, the ICAEW, '3' mobile and BT. Steve shares a love of football with his son and a passion for music with all of the family, but most of all, his heart's desire is to see the UK reached for the Lord Jesus Christ – a turnaround of eternal consequence for millions."

As in previous years the conference will be held at Great Shelford Free Church near Cambridge. Cost for the day will be £15 which will include tea and coffee, please bring your own packed lunch. Registration is at 9:30am for a 10:00am start and it finishes at 4:30pm.

You can book your place by visiting www.throughfaithmissions.org/conference2017 or by cheque to the TFM office made payable to Through Faith Missions Ltd.

The day will include worship, teaching, prayer and a chance to hear about all that's been happening over the last twelve months at TFM with an update on our plans for the future and a great chance to meet up with friends.

We look forward to seeing you there.

List of missions for this year

Our mission list this year is a series of smaller missions and all the teams are currently full with the exception of Purley and Derby for which the needs are not clear yet.

Uppingham and Belton, Rutland	13 - 21 May
Bexhill, Sussex	27 May to 4 June
Purley on Thames	23 Sept to 1 Oct
Derby	7 to 15 Oct

Update on aCross Britain

I'm aware that since the Prayer Partners Conference last June, quite a bit has been written and spoken about **aCross Britain**. But an update is timely, not least because the recent FPE conference allowed me to present my thoughts afresh, take questions and to hear of a woman's dream which illustrates where I'm coming from.

I started off by asking the question: WHO is responsible for mission? Romans 10 teaches that people can only hear if someone preaches to them, but is the text aimed solely at evangelists or does it apply to all Christians? Three themes from J. John's conference spoke into this conundrum – and the first was so frequent that I don't believe we were simply being jollied along :

- 1) This is an unprecedented Time for Harvest (a call to Mission)
- 2) Evangelists **MUST EQUIP** all non-evangelists to share their faith (a call to teach)
- 3) Both Archbishops are evangelists! Justin Welby was concerned at his installation that unless every Christian shares their faith, the Church will die – a message which echoed the 1944 report, "Towards the Conversion of England". It also links beautifully with the 2015 Talking Jesus statistics. 44% of practising Christians were told about Jesus by friends – not by experts.

Fascinatingly, Roy Crowne told us that Talking Jesus for Youth, set for general release soon, reveals something very similar. When young people were asked how they'd like to hear about Jesus – 43% would prefer to hear by word of mouth from friends, rather than through their phones, screens etc. Wow! If that's not a call to teach all ages to share their faith one to one, then what is?

We then looked at the difficulties people put forward for not sharing faith in the UK. "It's NOT my job" is a prominent part of my teaching nowadays and will continue to remain so after I heard an international evangelist and



teacher, American Becky Pippert, talk on God's upside-down Kingdom – and how our weaknesses, so often put forward as excuses, uniquely qualify each one of us in outreach. Using myself as an example of someone very slow to "get it", I posed the question: 'How many others are there like me, out there? Ignorant of their call, but potential witnesses, even evangelists?' In my 2014 vision God gave me a figure of 50,000 witnesses. We need to reach, encourage, equip and, crucially, challenge them to play their part.

For the desire to learn more about Jesus – something we are well aware of in TFM – has been shown statistically to be true. The Talking Jesus survey revealed that 1 in 5 non-Christians wanted to know more about Jesus after talking to a Christian. Furthermore, two thirds of not yet Christians know a practising Christian. But here's the two killer statistics: despite 85% of Christians believing that outreach is

their job, 40% of non-Christians have never had a conversation with their Christian friends about Jesus. In summary, the desire and need is present but not enough Christians are sharing their faith. And even when they do share their faith the quality of conversation is poor with a lot of negative responses.

So I challenged our evangelists at FPE to equip the great untapped resource in their parishes – the silent majority. Doing so should achieve more long term than experts simply working harder.

Doesn't this also apply to TFM? If we're not careful, simply relying on our missionaries "doing" mission not only puts pressure to "deliver souls" but is arguably less smart than training others in large numbers to share the evangelistic burden. This is where the woman's dream comes in. Starting with the well-known adage that fishing for someone simply feeds him for a day, whilst teaching him to fish gives him a lifetime's supply – she recounted her dream involving the River Nile. The Nile has many tributaries, bringing life to the surrounding land. In her dream, a speed-boat passed down the Nile, pushing water before it into the tributaries and irrigating the land. But once the boat had gone, the flow became stagnant. God was showing how reliance on evangelistic experts – the boat in her picture – is unhealthy and has only a short-term effect. Each tributary – local area – needs its own boat.

TFM is an archetypal "doing" organisation. Bringing our missionaries into an area undoubtedly has an effect. Some keen

locals join us on mission, but many stand back, content with supplying the practicalities of food, accommodation, publicity, organisation and transport. With the best will in the world, we can be perceived as experts who can be relied on to deliver the goods, with local buy-in to outreach merely optional. The old ALPHA footy analogy remains true: 22 players badly in need of a rest, watched by 22,000 spectators equally badly in need of spiritual exercise!



In planning my talk, a key text really hit me. *2 Timothy Ch:4v5 - do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.* If we're not careful we can discharge some of the duties by DOING evangelism and not the others (EQUIPPING the saints). I was therefore delighted when very recently, at the first pre-mission training day in Uppingham in Rutland, forty six locals turned up for training, including all the four ministers involved. Now, instead of our team of twenty being the main event, the sixteen (so far) signed up for door to door work can be linked to a team member who can mentor them, enabling the good work to continue subsequently. With many locals also committing to the range of events planned for the week, I see the mission in Uppingham as a half-way house between a standard TFM mission and **aCross Britain** – with both the home

and away teams playing equally important roles in outreach.

My talk ended, as you might expect, with a call to do things differently in 2017. Whether or not 2016 had gone well, do things differently from now on. Call TFM in to collaborate with you in training all the willing Christians across all the churches in your patch. As we share the load together, others learn to share their faith. The net result should include not only Christians gaining confidence in outreach, but also enthusing others to do so as they feedback in their churches on the middle Sunday morning. Some areas will agree to an outreach event during the training, in all areas we should see churches working together better and I sincerely believe that some evangelists will be set free and others will become TFM local reps in their area, setting up missions for us in the future.

An early example of what can happen took place in Uppingham the day after the Saturday training day : 3 people gave testimony in the Parish Church, including the vicar who shelved her sermon to do so! This has never happened before.

Thus far (and the word has only just gone out), I am booked in to meet with ministers in Oswestry and Stourport, following a call to start in the West Midlands. I'm also booked in to meet with ministers in Nottingham and in Linton, Cambridge. That's a good start, but we are very much open for more. Why not talk with your ministers and get them to invite me down. After all, the vision involves systematically covering the whole of Britain...

Thanks be to God.

Richard Scott

Overseas Missions

I was delighted when Rev. David Katende from Uganda was able to speak to us at the Prayer Partners Conference in 2016. I'd worked with him and eaten many times in his house near Entebbe on the 2015 Walk Uganda mission. Having spoken in his church, it was great that he could return the favour!

His presence, alongside others of the Walk Uganda teams who might not otherwise attend a UK TFM event, was symbolic of our support for this ministry which has continued unabated annually since the Millennium. As I write this piece, the 2017 team is preparing to depart for 3 weeks on 5 February, under the leadership of trustee Kevin Granville. As ever, the foreign team includes new members – with Kevin backed up by Dave Cooke and our trainee, Roz Haycock, to work alongside the "old hands" including Sidney and Judy Miller, Christopher and Clare Nobbs and Martin West. It should be a fabulous trip and I'd love to have been involved once again.

Our next foreign mission will be to Kenya, next January (2018). Adopting the successful template from the 2016 mission, we hope to run two teams in parallel, with EMMA providing the medical nous and TFM the evangelistic arm. Both we

and Pastor David Kereto were very pleased with how this arrangement worked last time.

However, the situation may become somewhat more complex! We have also been asked to send similar medical and evangelistic teams to work with an orphanage on the edge of Lake Victoria (the other side of Kenya). Pastor Matthew Murray is my link, and he told me over a Christmas coffee in Uttoxeter about the thousands of children they reach in that area of Bumala. Matthew contacted EMMA 2 years ago with his request and now, in God's economy, is also my middle daughter Grace's minister, following her move to the Midlands!

Naturally, our ability to run either one (or preferably both) Kenyan teams concurrently depends on having sufficient applications from both EMMA and TFM members. If you'd like to be part of one of these mission teams, please contact me via the office to chat further. If you've never worked abroad as a short-term missionary, I (and others) can confirm that it is a life-changing experience; one that you'll never regret.

Richard Scott



Supporting TFM

Our vision is to bring the gospel to as many people as possible either on mission or by working in partnership with churches to train and encourage all of us to share our faith. It may not be as emotionally engaging as responding to a drought or earthquake appeal but, arguably, it is equally important that we share the gospel. Our Churches need to awake to this need and part of our work is to encourage church leaders to focus on evangelism.

Our Approach is two-fold. 1. To facilitate missions with churches either singly or with others in a village, town, city, deanery, or circuit right up to large area Walks. 2. **aCross Britain** – our new initiative in response to the 'Talking Jesus' study which overwhelming showed that the best way to reach people for Jesus is through friends and colleagues talking to them. So we need to train and encourage all of us to do just that.



Our Response We are excited by all that God is doing in our nation at the moment and feel He is asking us to do more. So our goal is to appoint a Minister of Missions, a role previously held by Peter Adams, to facilitate and organise missions; and at least one more evangelist.

Prayer All that we do at TFM is supported by prayer so please consider praying for us on a regular basis. Why not sign up for our weekly prayer email?

Regular monthly donation A regular donation greatly helps us to plan our work knowing what our future income will be.

A one-off donation If you can't commit to regular giving please consider a one-off donation. There are a number of ways you can do this all of which are explained on the website at www.throughfaithmissions.org/giving

A Legacy If you have not already done so please consider including TFM in your will. This is a lasting way of ensuring that the work of TFM continues to preach the good news to future generations.

Church support Please consider asking your church to support us through its mission giving. We would gladly provide a speaker to talk about the work of TFM to raise the profile. This could be done in preparation for a fund raising event.

If you want to know more on any of these points please visit the TFM website or give us a call.

You may like to consider doing some **Fund Raising**. The TFM office will be happy to supply materials and ideas.

Mission to Cudham & Downe November 2016

The mission to Cudham & Downe was to an Anglican benefice comprising two churches just within the M25 and close to Orpington in Kent. It was a very rural area with lots of narrow lanes and some large distances between houses making door to door quite testing. The two churches had prepared an interesting and varied programme of events as well as prayer walking the area before we arrived. There were a small number of non-Christians at practically all the events and there were responses at pretty well each totalling all told some 30 folk. A particular highlight was the Beer and Bangers evening for men which filled the hall at Downe.

Roger Murphy was his usual effective self and spent most of the week with the team which comprised Andy and June



Gibson, Tony Fitzpatrick, Richard Foot, Maureen Keepin, Claire Robinson, Robert Parker and I. In addition to the 30 responses from Roger's talks, the door to door provided more than a dozen other contacts for the churches to follow up. Please pray for Rev John Musson and his team as they do the follow up and run a Christianity Explored course.

David Culhane

Roger writes...



Since the last newsletter I have spoken at a number of events including a mission in Cudham and Downe, Kent which was organised by David Culhane and team and is reported on earlier in this newsletter.

Just before Christmas my wife Jill was booked in by the consultant for a knee replacement operation which has gone well and she is recovering well which is good news, but the bad news is that she may well have to have the other knee replaced later this year! This has been a major upheaval at home, but I managed to preach at two Christmas outreach services in Seaford and saw a good number of responses to the Lord, and the youth work in Newhaven is going well and slowly growing in numbers which is encouraging.

Jim Fleming, our new evangelist in Ireland working part time with the parish of Seagoe, is still negotiating a definite starting date which is now likely to be later in the year.

We are looking forward to our family being all together here in April for the first time in five years as our daughter Carol, Andy and our two teenage grandsons come over from New Zealand and our son Chris, Abbi and our three year old granddaughter come over from Canada.

I continue to be available to speak at evangelistic events and lead missions.

Roger Murphy



Roger Murphy

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Daniel writes ...

As I write, we are already into February - not sure where January went?! I am still preaching locally - at Haddon and Oakington - and very much value and enjoy my times of preparation and study for these occasions. I have also had one or two Commissions as an artist which I have found challenging and satisfying. I reminisce happily about my times 'on the road' when I was involved in Missions with many of you - demanding and deeply fulfilling work for which I thank God. Now, somewhat on the side lines I pray, together with you all, for God's continued blessing on the vital task of spreading the Gospel being undertaken by the current team.

I share with you a fascinating text I came upon years ago: *Benaiah son of Jehoiada..... performed great exploits. He went down into a pit on a snowy day and killed a lion.*

1 Chronicles Ch: 11v22 (Also 2 Samuel Ch: 23v20)

In mentioning lions you might expect me to speak about Daniel in the lion's den - perhaps and God willing, I could say something about that on another occasion. However, this little story comes under the heading of 'Great men and great deeds.' The point that I want to make, from this extract of a list of Benaiah's great victories, is that there are sometimes situations that seem too much for us to handle. May be a spiritual battle; a fear; a domestic scenario or a temptation? To fight a lion in the open is one thing, to fight a lion on a hot day is another, but to fight a lion in a pit, on a cold and snowy day is quite a different matter! Either you come out in his stomach, as a meal, or he comes out as your fur coat.

Paul rejoiced that 'he could do all things through Christ who strengthened him.' The Psalmist said, 'with my God I can leap over a wall'. Paul also said, 'thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph.'

In my life, looking back, there have been 3 or 4 real instances, when faced with a threatening pathway - should I run or stand and fight? They were serious scenarios which caused me to pray fervently that I would choose the RIGHT way.

May our dear Lord strengthen and guide us throughout this year to seize our opportunities to do what is RIGHT.

In Hamilton, Canada in 1914 a man stood up in a meeting and said, "I am John Harper's last convert." He went on to explain that he was a survivor of the Titanic disaster. Thrown into the sea the waves brought him close to a man who introduced himself as John Harper, before asking, "Have you believed in the Lord Jesus?"

He told the gathering that he had replied, "No", at which point John Harper said to me, "Believe and you shall be saved!"

"The waves separated us for a while but then brought us together again, when John Harper asked me the same question once more before being swept away and drowned before me. I declare I am John Harper's last convert!"

Courage!
Yours as always,
Daniel



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 (need old address also)
- 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 Ltd or go to www.throughfaithmissions.org/giving 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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Roz writes...



The last few months have been rather different to the rest of the year. I have not been on a TFM mission but I have been busy working on other projects. In November 2016, I attended the team training for Walk Uganda 2017 going with the intention of finding out more and not thinking I would actually go. However, God had other ideas and a week later I signed up to go.

As I write we are leaving in 3 days, 7 February. I have never been to anywhere in Africa and have only been to a couple of countries that aren't in the UK; Chile and Switzerland. I have absolutely no idea what I will find or experience in Uganda. However I go with an open mind knowing that I will be in safe hands.

I know some of the team quite well having been on mission with them and met everyone else. I know I can trust and rely on them. You will be glad to know I am all packed, up to date with all of the necessary vaccinations, my passport is in date, I have received my visa, and have been praying regularly for the trip and for the team. I'm as ready as I will ever be. The nerves are settling, being replaced by an excitement for what God has in store. I am looking forward to getting on the plane and saying goodbye to my comfort zone and saying hello to what could be the biggest challenge I will have faced yet. With God by my side anything is possible and I am ready for the adventure. All that is left for me to do is to place all of my trust in God and to continue praying. He hasn't failed me yet!

A highlight for me since the last newsletter was leading an interactive talk on Christmas Day. Not many made it out that morning, but God certainly did! The service was full of joy and laughter throughout. A week went by and a lady who had been there that Christmas morning, shared with me that that service had made her Christmas and that she didn't think she had ever laughed so much. The service had set her up for the week. This made my day, but more importantly, it really brought home the message that God wants to meet all of us every time we go to church; different but special for each of us. I thank God for what He did in that morning service and I praise Him for the fact He has no favourites. He even let Jesus, His own son, die for you and me on that cross. Amazing! His love is something we cannot measure or even imagine!

I hope and pray that during my trip to Uganda, the team is able to share just a fraction of God's love with the people we meet out there and that it will go on to change their lives! Our God is an awesome God!

(Editor: The team are back safely and had an amazing time. A full report in the next issue)