

# THROUGH FAITH MISSIONS

in partnership with local churches as they engage in mission

# Newsletter



## March 2019



### Annual Conference



### Jim writes ...



### Prayer Warriors



### Telling Your Story

## Tim writes ...

Welcome to 2019!

Can we start by being honest with one another? So, if I ask you what programs and events your church has running or planned... your reply would be long and good. So many things happening, so many churches engaging effectively with their communities, so much that is positive.

But let me follow that by asking you how many people came to faith – made a commitment to Jesus – in your church last year?

And here we hit the brutal truth. For the answer to that question is generally much shorter and harder. Despite the enormous amounts of work churches are doing, the actual number of disciples declines.

Which is why, here, now – at the beginning of 2019 – I would like you to consider whether we need to re-think our activities– whether we need more events or whether we actually need more of God?

Included in this mailing is The Spiritual Rule of Life and Holiness. Familiar to anyone who has had anything to do

with a mission team; this document has been our foundation since the beginning of TFM.

And today, I believe it's needed more than ever.

Please will you turn to it, read it through and commit to the principle of holiness? For we urgently need more of God in our world, in our communities, in our churches – and for that to happen we need more of God in our lives...



How is your journey going? How is your prayer life? How is your battle with sin? How is your growth in the knowledge and love of God?

There is such an urgent need to preach Jesus – but to do that effectively in today's broken and complex world looks to be so very hard: we need the very presence of God – His wisdom; His love; His words; His forgiveness; His grace.

*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up* **James 4:7-10**

So, this year I am resolved to know more of God... Will you come with me?

God bless you

**Tim**

Note, The Spiritual Rule can also be found on the TFM website at [www.throughfaithmissions.org/rule](http://www.throughfaithmissions.org/rule)



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# Through Faith Missions Annual Conference

Sat 22 June 2019

St Peters Yaxley, Cambridgeshire

10-4pm

*"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David.* **Isaiah 55: 1-3**

Please join us as we gather for our conference this year.

These verses from Isaiah were written against a background of political turmoil and moral collapse. God's people were not sure that they would survive such a time. Yet God not only comforts His people but asks them to minister to society around them.

Through Faith Missions has some unparalleled opportunities to reach our broken world. Come and hear, come and pray, come and worship, come and be prepared to join us ...

**And.. and this is critical .... bring someone new with you!**

Cost for the day is £15 which includes tea, coffee and biscuits. Please bring your own packed lunch. You can sign up to come through our website shop or by ringing the TFM office.

The poster features a background of a large, white, hand-painted number '1' on a blue wall. The text is overlaid on this background. At the top, it reads 'Through Faith Missions Conference 2019' in blue. Below that, in green, is the quote 'Come all who are thirsty' followed by 'Isaiah 55'. At the bottom right, it says 'Saturday 22nd June', 'St Peters Church', and 'Yaxley, Cambridgeshire'. In the bottom left corner, there is a small logo for 'THROUGH FAITH MISSIONS'.



## Roz writes ...

Firstly, thank you for all the prayers that have been said for me over the Christmas period. It has certainly been a personal blessing to hear that so many people have been praying. As you can imagine, this has meant that since our last Newsletter I have not been able to make many additions to the 'To Do List'. However, it doesn't mean the work has stopped; therefore, there are plenty of things to pray for that will soon be taking place.

The team and I give thanks for all that God is doing this year in the Peterborough area, with the missions going on at St Paul's church, the Warmington Parishes, the prospective mission in the Stilton group of churches, the Prayer Partners' Conference due to be held in Yaxley and the list goes on.



photoshopped celebrities. There is an overwhelming message portrayed to us that if we are happy and content with ourselves then we are doing it wrong.

Having shingles on your face is something that causes a markedly unpleasant physical change to your appearance. God used this to really challenge me over how I view myself. Am I comfortable in my own skin? Do I rely on the way I look to be confident when I step out of the house? Can I love myself for being me, in whatever shape and form that might be, or do I have a specific perception of how things should be?

As a young Christian growing up in the 'big world', I remember being taught to love

God and to love others. However, I don't remember hearing much about loving myself. In fact, many teachings in the New Testament suggest that we should aim to wholeheartedly serve God and others. However, interpreting these readings like that doesn't leave much space for loving ourselves; it also leaves us open to the question of how can we love others and show others how to be loved, if we don't first know how to love ourselves.

What does Jesus say? In Mark 12:29-31 we read: "The greatest commandment is love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." (NIV) In this passage Jesus tells us firstly to love God. I think that most of us

*"..The team and I give thanks for all that God is doing this year in the Peterborough area"*

I give thanks to you, TFM's supporters, particularly for praying for the Warmington mission. Over the Christmas period, a few TFMers joined the minister in leading and being involved in the services. We are now focusing our efforts on preparing for the 10-day mission that is taking place during Holy week this year. The vicar regularly preaches about God's saving grace through Jesus Christ, so it is safe to say that His Holy Spirit is already working away quietly in the background. Therefore, we are asking God for opportunities to open up during our time there this Easter.

God used my time over the last few months to challenge the way I see myself. For a lot of my time I wasn't well enough to interact with other people, leaving me in a position where if I wasn't asleep, I was alone. Yes, ok I was alone with God, but sometimes God chooses to stay quiet so that He can wait and see what happens; it is then that we are left alone, just us and our thoughts. Being the middle child of five, there is always something happening in my parents' house and, therefore, this was a rather unique experience for me. I knew that I needed to make the most of the time.

In the news these days there is more and more about gender identity and if children should be allowed and encouraged to consider a gender change. There is also so much in the media about the way we look: are we thin enough, are we muscly enough, do we have the right hair colour, should or shouldn't we wear makeup? (Yes, these days, both males and females have these problems.) We are told to look at ourselves and to compare ourselves to those around us and to unrealistic

*"The greatest commandment is love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."*

get that this is the most important thing. We also understand that it is important to love others, but what isn't quite so clear is that we need to love ourselves. It is crucial that we are content within our own body, mind and soul because if God asks us to love others as much as we love ourselves then we first must know how to love ourselves. Otherwise how will we know how to properly love others?

**Roz**



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# Roger writes...

We have really enjoyed an extended time with our family from New Zealand. It has been great to be together to share, praise, pray and have fun and also seeking His future plans for us all. In addition to our daughter Carol, and Andy we had our grown up grandsons Thomas and Matthew as well as their girlfriends staying with us in our home – so it was cosy and we had to get on!!

The local outreach in Seaford has continued to go well and we had 10 new commitments to the Lord from our Alpha course, and they are being disciplined in a nurture group. The work at The Cabin also continues to be a blessing with good



numbers and responses - all from those right outside the church - at The Light Party, Advent and Christmas outreaches. We have also started a new group from those on the estate to help families and children with special needs.

As we head on into the New Year there will be more local evangelism as above, but I also sense that this coming year will be a new era for us all as we seek the Lord's way forward.



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# Jim writes ...

The bulk of my TFM work over the last four or five months has been all about starting to get organised for the 'Gathered In' Mission. This mission is planned for 19 September to 6 October 2019 and is happening in the Church of Ireland Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh. This Diocese essentially covers the counties of Cavan, Longford, Leitrim, Roscommon, a good part of Sligo and a small part of southern Fermanagh. A large area but with only a very small Christian / Evangelical population. The bulk of those living in the area are Irish Catholics.

We have been invited to facilitate this mission with churches in the Diocese by their Bishop, Ferran Glenfield. Bishop Ferran is an old friend of TFM, having had TFM working alongside him in missions while he was a Rector in Dublin. Within the Diocese there are many small, rural churches. However, only around twenty seven Parishes as these small churches are organised into 'Groups of Parishes' with each group containing between three and seven churches. It has been quite a task communicating with this number of Parish Groups but we are now beginning to see some shape develop in the mission plans.

I have had the assistance of New Wine Ireland's, and past TFM Team Member, George Newell to recruit and gather Team Members for the mission; this is an ongoing process. Along with Irish Team Members I have also been able to get other organisations involved with events the churches are planning. Crown Jesus Ministries from Belfast are keen to assist, along with Operation Mobilisation Ireland and other individuals who have expertise in children's work, school's work, creationism and apologetics.

I have also been involved with a fair amount of 'street evangelism'. This has mostly taken place in Belfast City Centre but also at the Irish Ploughing Championships which took place in Co. Offlay back in September. This was an excellent week, even though Storm Ali wiped out the marquee we were working out of! I worked alongside the Irish Evangelistic Band and OM Ireland and we had literally 100s of gospel conversations over the three days. An estimated 300 000 people visited the Championships over the three days, making it the largest agricultural show in Europe.



*Jim Fleming*

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## Prayer Warriors...

A few years ago, I was taking communion to one of the congregation who was housebound – now 89 and with complex medical issues, this lady found herself unable to leave the house and was entirely dependent on the care and support of her daughter.

In that communion service I learnt something I never forgot. This lady was very troubled – and, I thought, of course she would be, her life was not easy. Yet to my shame I had overlooked her faith journey. Actually, the thing that was troubling her most was the feeling that she could do nothing for her church, for Jesus.

And so, we began a conversation on prayer – on the value, the power of prayer. I would take her topics to pray for: - and she would pray through the newspaper. Over the years I valued the time I spent with her – the presence of God was so real in the sitting room....

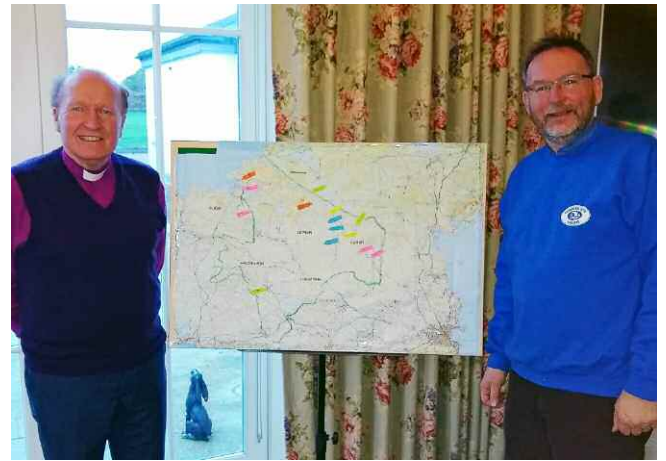
I was reminded of this because I have heard from a number of people who would love to be out on mission teams but are unable due to age or infirmity. And I want to say to you – it's not over. You are far more valuable than you realise. We need you to be prayer warriors – for TFM; for your church; for the world.

And I want to say to anyone who knows someone who is feeling their age or is struggling with illness: - tell them how valuable they are, tell them about the urgent need for prayer. Give them things to pray for...

(There are regular prayer points emailed out weekly, so please ask to go on that list ... but do remember those who have no access to internet:- print off a copy and give it to them, or just ring the office and speak to a real person and ask them to tell you the prayer points if that helps...)

PS.. Just back from Cornwall, where I was inspired by John and Zena – they are prayer warriors, but also attend regular prayer meetings so they can pray with others... where two or three... Who could you meet with, just to pray?

**Tim**



## We Need Team Members for:- Gathered In

### A mission to Ireland in 2019

**Week 1: 21 – 29 September**

**Week 2: 28 September to 6 October**

From Saturday 21 September until Sunday 6 October, churches throughout the Dioceses of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh will welcome 150 walking witnesses. These are ordinary Christians from these islands who have a passion for sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Ferran Glenfield, Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh, says:

*"Harvest is a time for gathering and celebration – both physically and spiritually.*

*We are seeking to gather and celebrate this September.*

*Will you join us spiritually in prayer and consider joining us physically by serving on a mission team?*

*To be on a mission team you need to attend a Training Event which you can do without obligation to join the team!"*

### Training Event Dates:

Cavan (Ireland) 8/9 June

Hungerford (UK) 11/12 May

St Austell (UK) 20/21 July

You can book onto these training events by contacting the TFM office.

# 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](http://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.
- I authorise TFM to contact me as I have selected below
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By supplying the information above you are authorising Through Faith Missions to hold the data supplied and contact you as selected. You can change these preferences at any time by contacting us at the address below.



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## Telling your story....

As I've been travelling the country, I've been hearing the most amazing stories... stories about what God has done in and through the work of TFM. There are those who came to faith; those who were inspired by missions, those who served on teams and have never forgotten that experience – its joys as well as hardships!

I think we need to record these. Would you do me a favour and write down a couple of lines – a testimony to what God has done for you through TFM... and then either email it, or post it to the office?

And Giving thanks...

In the middle of all those inspiring testimonies, two names come up time and time again: I hear... Dan led me to faith; Pete stayed at my house and transformed things; I served on a team with Daniel; I went on mission with Peter (these told by countless people whose lives were changed by the experience, men and women now serving God in every kind of way)... so many stories and yet a fraction of the full picture... and all because two men dared to follow God and do His will. Peter has been welcomed home (well done, good and faithful servant) he now knows the full picture.

Daniel, we give thanks and praise for all you have done, and we pray that you and Gillie thoroughly enjoy your well-deserved retirement.

**Tim**



*"... and all because two men dared to follow God and do His will."*