

# IN HOUSE



The Magazine of Thornbury Baptist Church March 2011

## Focus on Mission

OUR MISSION ACTIVITY in Thornbury Baptist Church (TBC) is delegated to the Mission Strategy Group (MSG) by our Fellowship. The strategy for the group is linked with and supports that of TBC's aim to be –"Going and growing together in the love of Christ to make Him known". The group does this by prayerfully considering and recommending to the leaders of TBC those whom we seek to encourage and support both financially and in prayer. These people are from and or linked with TBC and are seeking to follow Jesus' commission in Matthew 28v19: *'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit'*. We have been encouraged and excited to see this commission being put into practice in both the UK and overseas through individuals and various organisations.

### **What we actually do**

TBC sets aside a tithe of 20% from the monthly income to Mission. Specific gifts from individuals to nominated people or organisations increase our total giving to around 40%. The Mission Strategy Team meets on a monthly basis and prayerfully reviews the support we give on behalf of TBC and makes recommendations to the Leadership Team. It is open to suggestions for new support which fall in with the overall strategy.

### **Who are MSG:**

Mary Armour (Secretary), Helen Harrison, Helen Hope-Bell, Ed Stuart, Dave Longden, Dave Tubb, Mair Vaughan (Chair person).

### **Some we support:**

#### **From TBC**

#### ***Mark & Tammy Baker***

Based in Sabah, Malaysia working for Youth with a Mission, they run Discipleship Training Courses and other courses for students from all over the world, but mainly Malaysians, equipping them to serve in their own churches

#### ***Nick and Tiffany Strode***

Based in the deprived area of Hull they seek to support the youth in the area working with Youth

for Christ and developing their own initiatives under God's guidance to bring the gospel to the young people in Hull.

#### ***Lucy West***

Lucy now supports her husband's work in **Lz7** which goes into schools with the gospel through rap, singing and chat.

#### **Local Mission**

#### ***New Generation Music (NGM)***

A local organisation based in Thornbury that trains people in Christian media (dance, drama, DJ, sound, mixing and many more areas). They also mentor and develop artists from the age of 13 - 17.

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#### ***One25 Project***

Based in Bristol, this project reaches out to women trapped in street sex work, supporting them to break free and build new lives away from violence, poverty and addiction. They have recently opened a mother and baby home enabling vulnerable families transform their lives.

***St Marks Church*** is a church in central Bristol which we seek to encourage in reaching out with the Gospel to ethnic communities who are often from an Islamic background.

#### ***Philip Jinadu***

Local community evangelist based in Woodlands Church Bristol.

#### ***Myrtle Lawrence***

Myrtle works with Changing Tunes, a charity that uses music teaching, rehearsing, recording, performance, improvisation and composition to aid the rehabilitation of prisoners and ex-prisoners.

**Other Missions** (Link European Churches, Reaching Muslims and The Jews)

***ELAM*** trains mostly Iranian Christians in Turkey who want to become church ministers and leaders back in Iran. The establishment in Surrey translates and publishes the Bible, New Testament and more recently children's books into the Farsi language. It also develops Christian programmes in Farsi available on the internet.

## **Sam Yeghnazar**

Sam founded and leads Elam Ministries in Surrey. Elam recently celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary where former and current students gave testimony to the way God has blessed and provided for Elam over the past 20 years, looking to God's guidance for the future

**Tom and Edna Hamblin** are actively involved in distributing bibles in various languages to Muslim countries and in the UK and in supporting those oppressed in Islamic and other nations because of their faith in Jesus Christ.

**Stephen Pacht** has recently moved to Switzerland to start the Jews for Jesus mission. This mission reaches out to Jews with the gospel both in their own land and in the UK. Their mission statement is 'We exist to make the Messiah ship of Jesus an unavoidable issue to our Jewish people worldwide'.

**Robert Boros** is the pastor of the Church we support in Udverhely, Romania. We have been linked with this church for over 20 years. We send a team to Romania each year to support the church through children's mission and to encourage members.

**Eglise Protestante Internationale France**  
We are linked with this church, which is near Toulouse, through two families who were members of TBC. We have been encouraged and blessed by all that God is doing, bringing new members in and new Christians through Alpha courses, so much so that they are extending their premises.

Many others are supported by individuals in TBC

The Leadership Team thanks everyone in TBC for their generosity in giving time money and themselves to support God's work.

Please continue to pray for all those with whom we have links. Come and join us on a Monday evening at 7pm when we meet to pray for Alpha, Interceding for those in particular need and Mission (AIM)

Mair Vaughn

## **Visit to Bulgaria**

To start describing our time in Bulgaria, we should mention the end. Leaving the friends we had made in Carol's village was surprisingly difficult. We had met children of gypsy and Bulgarian backgrounds, and adults young and old, however it was just as easy to feel welcomed by one as it was by the other. The whole team was struck by how inviting the locals were, and we were able to get much more out of the trip than



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we tried to put in due to this fact alone.

The first four days in Bulgaria were spent helping in a town close to Carol's village. There in Senokos we met some great Christians who were based in a Methodist Church in the large town of Varna. Every year, they have visited the children living there to set up a week's activity-filled holiday club in the town hall. The

eight of us joined in with their crafts and games and watched, inspired by the church's enthusiasm and dedication to the children, as they performed stories and puppet displays. On one of our afternoons, we led two dance workshops. One for the younger children, which involved animated banner waving and a lot of loud singing from them all, as they chanted the chorus of "Alleluia, alleluia, ezuse

obeecham te!" translating to, "Alleluia, alleluia, Jesus we love you!". The other, and perhaps more reserved dance, was an old Shadows favourite (which of course Carol was pleased with!) The older children learnt the choreography to 'Shackles' by the Christian singers, 'Mary Mary'. Both of these dances were performed on the first Saturday evening, during our 50 minute presentation to the village of Senokos. This gave the children the rare opportunity to feel really involved in something worthwhile, and every one of them made a huge effort to look the part and perform with vast amounts of enthusiasm!

During our trip we visited two orphanages. One was aged 4-7 and the other carried on from 8-18. Many children are not orphans, yet their parents can't keep them. There have been several occasions, however, when parents have approached the orphanage and asked for their children back just to send them to work to help run the family home. Of course there have been problems with this, and measurements are being put in to prevent parents reclaiming their children solely for economic reasons.

Normally, once the children reach 18 they are on their own and have to find a job. Carol explained how a lady had approached her to ask if she would provide shelter for one blind young man, who had no job or contacts after he had to leave the orphanage. Even to hear this was heart-breaking, and we pray for God's guidance for Carol as to how she can help.

Prior to our arrival Carol had scheduled us in at two churches and at the village hall to present a presentation. The group was faced with the challenge of trying to convey a Christian message with only limited vocal communication. As such we decided to focus on the theme of the heart of God. We produced

several dances, a puppet display, an origami demonstration and a couple of dramatic sketches; most popular was our mime of 'the sin chair' whereby all that touched it became temporarily stuck! The presentations were a success, however often parts of our audiences were talking to each other; Carol assured us this was a cultural thing: hopefully she wasn't just being nice!

In between out time at the orphanages and Senokos, a holiday club was set up for the village children in Carol's 'quiet garden' (which got very much disturbed!) and courtyard. Bible stories of 'Zacchaeus' and the 'Prodigal Son' were enacted by the children to demonstrate how much God loves everyone, despite their situations. For a couple of hours in the afternoons faces and nails and Carol's walls would be painted, balloons would be modelled, followed by games on the green. It was lovely to see one girl in particular turn up early for the club and wait outside the gate for 2 hours until she was told she could come in. At that point she disappeared! Our surprise was shortly answered as she came returned with what looked like the whole of the younger generation in the village!

So we end as we begun, saying goodbye to these precious children. Right now, we can only pray for their safety as we are unsure of how vulnerable to abuse they are inside their homes. Perhaps one day, God will give us the opportunity to return and see what progress has been made. Overall though, a wonderful fortnight!

Sarah Baker-Falkner

## Visit to Malaysia

During the late summer, I was privileged to have the opportunity to go to Sabah, Malaysia, to spend 12 days with Mark, Tammy, Bethany and David. Four of us made the journey: myself, Elsa Looij, Phillip and Sheila Downs, and we had a fantastic time.

The ministry focus of our trip was two-fold; some of the time was spent working with the Filipino children at an informal 'school' in the Sabah capital Kota Kinabalu (KK) set up by a local lady, in response to their lack of any formal status, rights or access to education. We did a 3-day 'kids club' with the children, based on Noah's Ark, and they loved all the activities, games and songs, especially when the songs got faster and faster! But they were just as happy simply to have some attention, and someone to sit alongside them. These children had so little in terms of material



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goods, food, security or access to basic human rights, and it was clear that life for them is all about survival. They were given a meal at the end of the session, just something simple like rice and chicken, but several of them would produce plastic bags and ask for extra to take home to their family. One is left wondering how much food there actually is at home.

Another ministry focus was the kid's club that we did at a church in a village about 2 hours drive from KK. We stayed at the village for 4 days and were made to feel so very welcome by everyone. The kids club went very well, and the numbers attending grew at quite a rate, which could have been interesting as we were remote enough that there was no access to extra resources. However, prayer and some 'loaves and fishes' stretching of

what we had meant that every child was able to take a full part in all the activities they wanted to. Some of the children that came along had never set foot inside the church before, and we even had a family of another faith coming along, so it was a great opportunity.

Whilst there we also took part in the church bible quiz (still don't know what Lamentations is in Malay!), and were invited along to home groups. The times of fellowship were very special, as we shared with each other about God's love for all in the ordinary things of life, as well as those 'testimony' moments.

For me the two strongest memories however will be firstly of driving one hour deeper into the 'jungle', at night, to go to a home church and share with the people there. The welcome, the strong sense of love and community, and the depth of faith were all very tangible, and something I will not forget. The other strong memory was the visit to the Filipino church, and hearing the story of one lady who had been held

at the police station the day before due to a lack of passport; this was still with the agent until the lady had earned enough to get it back. At her current rate of pay that would be several months yet, and in the meantime every day held the threat of capture and deportation. What a precarious life, but what strong faith as she used the experience to tell the policeman about God, and that she must be released as she was leading the church service the next day!

The food is delicious in Sabah, the sunsets are a beautiful reflection of God's creative glory and it was wonderful to be with Mark and Tammy and the children and get a glimpse of the work that they do and the life that

they live each day. But for me the trip can be encapsulated by one question: 'how would you, and your faith, cope in those circumstances?'

# Church Calendar: March 2011 to May 2011

## March

4 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Women's World Day of Prayer at TBC
6 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Community service & meal David Lawrence: The Community of the Holy Spirit
	6.30pm	Dave Ling: Fruit of the Holy Spirit – Faithfulness
12 <sup>th</sup>	8am	Men's Breakfast
13 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 & 11am	Paul Ferguson: Holy Spirit the Giver of Gifts
	6.30pm	Sally Heath: Fruit of the Holy Spirit 8 – Gentleness
15 <sup>th</sup>	1pm	Inside Out – visit to Oakham Treasures
17 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	Prayer Evening
20 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 & 11am	Paul Ferguson: The Function of Gifts
	4pm	Welcome tea
	6.30pm	SNG: Fruit of the Holy Spirit 9 – Self Control
27 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 & 11am	Dave Day: Gifts & meeting together
	6.30pm	John Moseley
28 <sup>th</sup>	12pm	Ladies That Lunch

## April

3 <sup>rd</sup>	11am	Community Service & meal Paul Ferguson: The Cross & Atonement
	6.30pm	Peter Hatton: Wisdom
10 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 & 11am	All age service: Why Easter?
	6.30pm	Mary Groves
11 <sup>th</sup>	2pm	Inside Out – Marcel's Musings
12 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Easter Fun Factory

14 <sup>th</sup>	8am	Family Forum
17 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 & 11am	Ken Payne: Palm Sunday
	6.30pm	Gordon Hindmarsh: Hosanna
18 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup>		Sacred Space
21 <sup>st</sup>	8pm	Maundy Thursday Service of Reflection
22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30am	TCT Good Friday March of Witness starting at TBC
	6pm	Good Friday Communion Service
24 <sup>th</sup>	9.15	All age service & 11am
		Easter Sunday: Paul Ferguson
	6.30pm	Mike Levy

## May

1 <sup>st</sup>	11am	Community service & meal Philip Jinadu: Drastic Action
	6.30pm	Dave Staley
8 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 & 11am	David Lawrence: What about Divorce?
	6.30pm	Sally Heath
9 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	New Alpha course starting
15 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 & 11am	Lis Pearce: Kingdom Kids
	6.30pm	Paul Ferguson
19 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	Prayer evening
22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.15 & 11am	Mike Levy: A Rich Young Man
	6.30pm	Neil Mobbs
23 <sup>rd</sup>	12pm	Ladies That Lunch
29 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 & 11am	All age service: Paul Ferguson: Coming of the Holy Spirit
	6.30pm	Terry Wicks