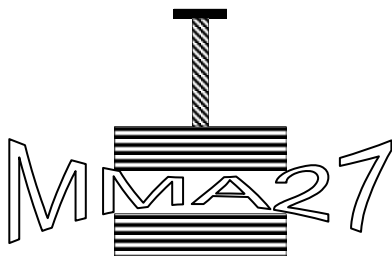


WINEPRESS



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September 2009

The Innovating and Sustaining God

In the past, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. (Hebrews 1:1-3)



I love this picture of Jesus. He is both creator and sustainer; innovator and nourisher; pioneer and settler. These verses remind us that the same God who created the universe in all its diversity and wonder still actively sustains it through the power of his Word.

Just as God works in creation, so he works in our lives. While he sustains all the good work he has done through the years, we must not sit back. As Paul writes, 'forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal...' before reminding the Philippian church, 'Only let us live up to what we have already attained.' (Php 3:13-16). While we remember, celebrate and live out all that God has done over the years, still he calls us on to new pastures and adventures.

I wonder where God might be calling you to 'live up to what you've already attained?' Are you walking closely with him in the present or is intimate friendship with God something that's confined to the past? Do you still have a vision for what God can do or, in the words of one preacher, 'do your memories outweigh your dreams?'

While Colin's away, I'm sure he'll be asking similar questions of himself and of our parish. We have a strong legacy of

God's work in our town. We also face the challenges of a changing world. In the light of these things, we will need to regularly ask ourselves, 'What do we need to sustain? Where do we need to innovate?' I've been immensely encouraged since I arrived a year ago by the creative approaches to mission and discipleship the parish has taken over the years. As we continue to do so into the future, we can be assured that God 'the pioneer and perfecter of our faith' (Heb 12:2) will continue to help us as we serve his mission to this world.

RICHARD ENGLAND

Christians Against Poverty

The book 'Nevertheless' by John Kirkby recounts his incredible journey out of great debt. His story is full of faith, wisdom and a desire to care for others. John went on to found CAP as a response to the poverty he saw in Bradford.



I recently attended a money management course offered by CAP volunteers which was very worthwhile (the half-time coffee and eats were great too!) Jeff and I enjoyed learning about money management, with a view to actually being able to put away savings in the future. It was a safe environment for one-to-one chats with a money coach. We looked at our situation: giving, incoming and outgoing finances and opportunities for saving, applying Biblical principles of integrity and wisdom. I would thoroughly recommend these sessions to others.

Apart from staging such courses, CAP also provides assistance to people in debt. This is a way to show the love of God in practical ways to a society in desperate need of hope, which can ultimately be found in knowing Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

SANDIE MANN

Miracles Don't All Happen Over Night

On a very wet evening in 1985 an obedient man-on-a-mission knocked on the door of the cottage I'd recently rented. I'd made my home in Charlesworth whilst going through a painful divorce and struggling to keep things together for the sake of my baby daughter. The man invited me to Sheffield to hear Billy Graham and something about his cheerful banter made me determined to get on the coach being provided the following Sunday lunchtime.

The significance of that doorstep encounter was brought home to me this July as that same man joined a table of guests my husband and I had invited to The Urban Hero Awards fundraising dinner at The Palace Hotel in Manchester. The amazing thing was that we didn't personally invite him but he was asked to go by a friend from his church that had been invited by us.



This 'God-incidence' brought tears to our eyes as we shared the experience of a spectacularly successful event organised by a young woman who had been that baby in 1985. He told me how close he had been to giving up and going home that evening because he was soaked to the skin and discouraged by the lack of response. We wondered what would have happened to Tess and I if he hadn't knocked on our door!

Those who know me and my daughter will probably also know we have both experienced heartache and failure in our relationships but as Richard England reminded us on Sunday 12 July, our God longs to give us second chances. Fortunately in 1985 I took 'the chance of a lifetime' that began my Christian journey and brought me into a relationship with this compassionate God. I praise and thank Him that 24 years later, as a result of the faithfulness of one believer, £120,000 was raised to support God's work in this fallen world where so many are given second chances through the ministry of The Message Trust!

HILARY COLLARD

New Wine Experience

For a while, I'd been hungering for more of God and thinking how great it would be to go to a summer camp. It seemed like one of those things that we used to do before we had a baby (like go out in the evenings!) I looked at the New Wine website and realised it was only 90 minutes drive away and, even better, was in Newark where we have some good friends. I sent them a text to see if they were around that weekend and even though they replied saying they would be on holiday, they posted us a key so we had a whole house to ourselves rather than a 3mx3m camping space! Reassured by this luxury and a sense that this was where God wanted us to go, we packed a large suitcase for Joseph and a small back pack for us and set off to for the weekend.

We'd not been to New Wine before but had been to Keswick and I'd been to Spring Harvest and Stoneleigh. There's a large similarity between them - Bible teaching, worship and seminars to suit everyone. It was also great to access Christian resources that are hard to find in locally and to be amongst so many Christians in one place. Christians Against Poverty were running a cafe and giving away free copies of a book called 'Nevertheless' which I've been reading on the train to work this week and it's excellent.

Joseph slept through one meeting and one seminar which we really enjoyed. During another meeting and seminar however, he did what 14-month-olds do; ran everywhere finding the most dangerous objects he could, diverted all attention to himself (whilst smiling to make sure everyone knew he's actually very cute), then for his finale screamed though the last evening and vomited all over his pram just as we were trying to get him and all his luggage into the car in the pouring rain. In short, New Wine is great, you'd really enjoy it and find something to suit you ... but it would be a lot more relaxing without a 14 month old baby!



TOGA Out and About

Willersley Castle Hotel was the destination for this year's TOGA day out. Situated at Cromford near Matlock Bath, it stands in 65 acres with breathtaking views over Cromford Ravine and the River Derwent. The house was built during 1789-92 by Sir Richard Arkwright, but unfortunately he died before work was completed and never actually lived there. It is now owned by the Christian Guild and used as a hotel and conference centre.



The coach left the Vineyard at 9.30am. We could see it was going to be a warm day and everybody was in high spirits. We arrived after an hour's drive through the Derbyshire countryside and were met at the door and shown inside for coffee, tea and biscuits.

The music room was to be our base and here we held a communion service of praise and worship to thank God for this wonderful day. Afterwards, we went into the dining room for lunch. This comprised a buffet of mouth-watering savouries and desserts, followed by tea or coffee which we took into the drawing room for a rest after having eaten too much.

The rest of the day was to be free time which could be spent enjoying fellowship in the music room or exploring the grounds of the hotel. We decided to make use of the 15 metre heated indoor swimming pool, which on such a hot day was just what we needed.



Before long it was time to leave behind Willersley Castle and return to Glossop. Many thanks go to the driver of the coach, to Judith Moore for organizing the trip and to all on the coach for making it one of the best TOGA days out ever.

JANIS and TERRY MOSS

Supporting Soroti

I had my eyes opened when I visited Soroti, Uganda last September to share the love of God in both practical and spiritual ways and encourage our friends Winnie and George with the vision they have for their community. They alone were housing six young people who were in need of refuge. It was humbling to spend evenings with them in their luxury hut (only luxury because it had an iron roof!), their faith so strong even in adversity.

We held clinics at the church George had planted and did general healthcare talks explaining how simply washing hands properly can prevent disease spreading. We were able to teach dance to the children and help Winnie run her pre-school in the village. Their old building flooded every summer, so after returning from this trip we raised money for a new building. This has now been built, so we are now looking forward to seeing the development of their other dreams to see Pamba, a poor village on the outskirts of Soroti, changed for the better.

Winnie and George want to see good education for young people and programs set up to give them better prospects. So far over ten children are being sponsored through school, which opens up scope for their future. Just the fact that someone is supporting them boosts their confidence and encourages them.

We have now joined Child Life Line (childlifeline.com), a branch of Lifeline Ministries East Africa, which works alongside local people, supporting their visions for their community. We are returning to Soroti at the end of October. If you feel you want to get involved in some way by supporting me personally to get to Uganda (and back!) please visit my just giving account (justgiving.com/Tina-Mann-fundraiser-gig). With Gods help, little by little we can help change the world. Please also keep Winnie and Goerge in your thoughts as they recently lost their only son to Malaria.



TINA MANN

The Waterfall Project

The Waterfall Project has two main functions:

1. To collect food, cleaning goods and personal hygiene products to support members of the community.
2. To allow Christians to meet and offer practical support to those with which we would not normally come into contact and show our faith.

Waterfall *is not* a scheme to increase the congregation of the church but is a practical execution of the scripture in Matthew 25. The project started in June for a trial of six months to the end of December. It was hoped that 100 Christians could be recruited to donate items and asked to complete three tasks:

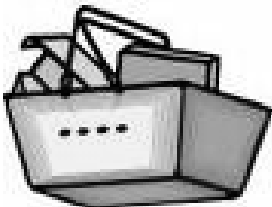
1. To give items on their Gifting Schedule on time, in full.
2. To be aware of those in need and meet them as friends.

Waterfall should not be offered as charity but a community service specifically for them, with no strings attached.

3. To find time to pray for Waterfall.

Every person is given a schedule of dates, each with an item to be brought to church on that Sunday. The total cost does not exceed £5.00 in any month. Boxes are provided at the back of church, one for food items and one for cleaning and personal hygiene items. All donations are collected by the Waterfall team and stored at the Vineyard ready for distribution.

It is hoped that Waterfall can be done in secret and not advertised, so it can only be a success if we comply with scripture and not know 'what the left hand is doing'. Each week an evening meal will be provided at the Vineyard to bring our new friends to and entertain them. This will also be a good opportunity for them to replenish any food or other items they need.



One minute shopping, Ten minutes praying,
One hour talking.

TREVOR LEE

News from Gwen

Thank you so much for the kind gift sent to me. It was very generous of you all and much appreciated. I have since sent it on to SAMS for my support. Thank you too for all your prayers and interest. It was great seeing many of you, however briefly, in January and I hope that things are going well for you.

We are now in winter and have had one of the coldest ever. The only good thing was that it was also one of the wettest, which meant an end to the drought. The rain came at a time when usually very little falls and so it was quite a blessing, especially in the Chaco. Today the sun is shining and the temperatures are in the 30s. Our



two week winter holiday in July was extended to three weeks due to swine flu, although not much is heard about it now. We are on the run down to the end of our school year now. Our older pupils are preparing to take IGCSE's and AS levels in October.

The work trips to the Chaco were all postponed this year, first due to drought and then due to too much rain. However, we now have plans to take year 10 on Sept 7th and then year 12 on Sept 9th with them crossing en route. They will go to dig a water tank and paint in one of the Indian communities so we are hoping for good weather. The year 10s managed their trip to Concepcion where they painted a poor school and dug latrines for people in a poor area and made the local news! On Friday night we had our ceremony where the students get their certificates for AS and IGCSE's they took last year. It was good that our new bishop was able to be there and say a few words. He talked of real success being in Jesus and putting Him first. The parents really seemed to appreciate what he said.

Thank you once again for all your support.

GWEN CARLISLE

An Epistle from Crete to the Glossopians

Greetings to all our brothers and sisters in Glossop, especially our dear friends Peter and Hilary, who have been good and faithful servants and leaders of our LIFE Group for over 20 years! We write this from Crete, where we are on holiday and have time to reflect. (We have just missed Paul by about 2,000 years.)

The summer term of DIY studies came as a surprise and we approached it with concern. After some discussion, we all realised that we needed to give a well-earned break to Peter and Hilary, so we decided to take turns in hosting and leading each week. Given the free choice of subject matter, we came up with more topics than needed. This was, in itself, reassuring.

We believe that we have grown closer on our journey together. We agree that following up the Sunday teaching with additional material is of value. However, as a result of our experiences last term, we feel that we have developed more confidence and greater freedom to expand the study and open up to our personal experiences. We grew in the appreciation of each other's potential. We also realized how much work has to be put into preparation of a study, if it is to be worthwhile.

There can be the danger of seeking 'the right answer' to each question and then moving on to the next; a bit like answering a test or examination. We learnt to value deviation, initiated by a specific verse, thus meeting the needs of a particular member in a particular situation at a particular time. We grew in pasturing and prayer - which could be focussed on that situation.

I am reading a book called 'The Island' about Crete. Victoria Hislop says 'What really determines what happens to us are the actions of those around us and those who came before us.' How true this is of a dynamic LIFE Group. In ours we have accumulated over 500 years of life experience - so we have a lot to share.

I am reminded of the response after the Scripture reading on Iona: 'We thank God for the word in Scripture, we thank God

for the word among us, and we thank God for the word within us.' This is where we are with our LIFE Group. We are journeying together, listening to the Holy Spirit within us and amongst us.

We will continue the format of sharing the preparation and presentation of each week's study. We will share in the hosting each week. At the same time, Peter and Hilary will remain leaders, co-ordinating and reporting back to the leaders' meetings. Whatever the reason for the decision to 'go DIY', it matters not; we have all benefited and prayerfully we will move forward. Grace be with you all.

ERIC ROBERTSON

P.S. Titus did a good job here on Crete.



Notice Board

At St James'

WEDDING

18th Jul Stephen Robert Jackson & Courtney Jane How-

BAPTISMS

FUNERALS

26th Jul Shay Antony John-
son
Johnson
Brooke Blue John-
son

10th Jul Ronnie Taylor
17th Jul Joan Robert-
son
20th Jul Robert Will-
mott
23rd Jul Anne Jones

At St Luke's

WEDDING

29th Aug Mark Dean Harris & Rebecca Louise Johnson

WINEPRESS... is a magazine serving the Christian congregations in Whitfield Parish, Glossop (MMA 27).

Please take only **1** copy per household to keep down wastage.

Our church family has grown so large that it can be difficult to keep track of all its different interest groups. The aim of this publication is to transmit information between congregations and to keep everyone up to date with who's been doing what, and where. Each issue will spotlight different groups, report on events and bring a roundup of news.



Do you have newsworthy items from your congregation for inclusion in winepress? Would you like to report on what your group is doing, or would you like to recommend it to others? Have you an inspiring story to tell?

Please submit articles to winepress@glossop.org
or phone Beverley on 862105.