

2007

## Three in a Row!

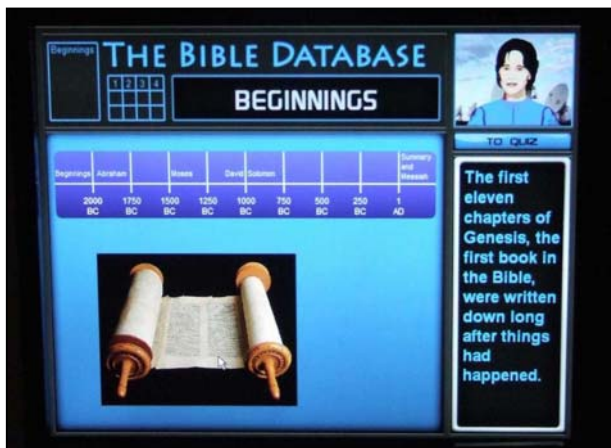
For the third year running, Durham Road Baptist Church has been one of the recipients of the prestigious *Tyne and Wear High Sheriff's Award*, for services to the local community. Lee Dinning and Amy Thompson, from our *Fit For Life Club*, were the two young people chosen to collect the award on behalf of the church at a special ceremony held at the Stadium of Light, home to Sunderland AFC. The cheque for £350 will be put towards our work amongst young people.



## The Journey of a Lifetime

The Emmaus Road Show has got off to an excellent start! Thank you for all your prayers for it. It has spent the first week of its journey in Winlaton, and will be moving on to Whickham and then east Gateshead before spending its final two weeks in the centre of the borough.

It was wonderful on the first morning to see the children enthralled by the *Starship Revelation* as they climbed on board for a high-tech interactive journey through the pages of the Old Testament. Through opening up *The Bible Database*, they meet characters such as Abraham, Moses, Joseph, David and Solomon.



They then move on to catch a private jet to the Red Sea. En route, their 'in flight' movie tells the story of Jonah.



A 3-D cinema forms the third leg of their journey, where viewers are introduced to the life and times of Jesus. It's amazing



how the scenes really come to life when viewed in three dimensions! A large model of the city of Jerusalem is illuminated building-by-building as the story of Holy Week unfolds, culminating in the death and triumphant resurrection of Jesus.



The fourth element of the Road Show is a Research Facility, where participants delve into the background to Pentecost with the aid of computers.

The children who have visited the Road Show so far have loved it, and have learned so much about the Bible's stories through it. It has also been heartening to observe how pleased the teachers have been with it.

### A Selection of Written Responses

(from pupils at Winlaton West Lane Primary School)

- "Thank you for an amazing day" ... "it was very exciting"
- "it was brilliant in the space shuttle" ... "a fantastic day"
- ... "the best and the most fun RE lesson ever! I enjoyed every single second of it" ...
- "Jonah's story was good. I am going to read the rest of the story" ... "Jonah the moaner was always moaning at people, but God chooses to forgive" ...
- "I learned a lot about Jesus and God and the Holy Bible"
- ... "Thank you for the brilliant morning learning about Jesus and the stories from the Bible" ...
- "I know more about Jesus now, so 'thank you'!"

## Book Your Place!

We have booked two nights at the Road Show for ourselves when it is located at South Street Primary School, near the Church: **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March** and **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March**. I believe the Road Show provides us with an excellent evangelistic opportunity to invite our friends and contacts along to an enjoyable and informative night out, which will introduce them to the true meaning of Easter. We can accommodate up to 33 people per night, so get busy and order your tickets (a real bargain at only £1 per person)!

## Easter Special

Our *Fun and Food for all the Family* event this month will take the form of an Easter Special on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 7.00-8.30pm**. The *Hot Cross Buns Night* will feature quizzes, games and musical items, and we will be showing part of the *Story Keepers* portrayal of the Easter story. The 'story keepers' are an imaginary group of Christians who lived under Nero's persecution in Rome. They keep the Christian message alive by retelling the events surrounding the life, death and resurrection to each other. Their life is one long adventure, with many scrapes along the way! But through it all, their unshakeable and brave faith in Jesus shines through. Children and adults alike will become caught up in the drama of their adventures, but also hear the story of Easter very clearly as it unfolds from their lips.

Please use the flyers that are available to invite your friends and contacts along to it.

## Planning for the Future

Our **Church Members' Annual General Meeting** takes place on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March**. As well as approving the accounts for our last financial year and giving an update on our current year finances, several other important topics will be on the agenda.

- The deacons will be bringing a recommendation to the meeting about inviting volunteers from America to come across to help with our youth work, a matter we discussed at our quarterly meeting in January.
- The leadership will also be bringing a recommendation concerning a new heating system for our church halls and ancillary rooms.
- The renewal of the annexe roof has now been completed, and I am pleased to be able to report that the latest phase of our refurbishment work has all been completed well within our budget figure. We anticipate being able to carry about £9,000 forward to the next phase of our refurbishment work.
- Our AGM will also provide an opportunity to update you on various evangelistic initiatives planned for this year and next.

## Giving Money Away!

When all the bills had been paid for the performance of **Prom Praise at The Sage Gateshead** last November, we were thrilled to discover that the event had raised **£23,600** for our nominated charities.

- £6,800 has been donated to the Langham Arts Trust Schools Project, which organises Prom Praise events for children and young people.
- A cheque for £16,800 was presented to *Tiny Lives*, the charity that raises funds for the premature baby unit at Newcastle's Royal Victoria Infirmary. Their chief fundraiser, together with a nurse from the unit, were present to receive the cheque. We were then taken on a guided tour of the unit. All of us were deeply moved by the loving and sensitive care given to the babies and their parents. It reminded me of how precious each newborn life is to our Father God, and how much he cares for parents with young children.

*He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.*

[Isaiah 40.11]

## Praying street by street

We have been challenged from our Sunday morning studies in Paul's first letter to Timothy to pray for the people who live in the streets around our church building (1 Tim 2.1-8). To that end, we have prepared some prayer request slips to be delivered to local homes. Please let me know if you would like to be involved in their distribution. We will be seeking to pray for the residents in one street a week, gradually moving outwards in ever-increasing circles from the church.

Paul encourages us to pray for *everyone*, because God's burning passion is for *all to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth*. To that end, he has made bold provision. His only Son, *Christ Jesus*, gave himself as a ransom for *all*. As we prepare to celebrate these wonderful and profound truths once again this Easter, pray that many hearts and lives will be touched, through the Road Show, our Easter Special, and our Easter services next month, drawing people to a living faith in Jesus Christ.

**David Hunt**