

The Emmaus Road Show

Over the past five weeks, we have been privileged to present the Emmaus Road Show to over 2,000 school children throughout Gateshead and to over 200 adults (teachers, parent helpers and church groups).



The response has been very enthusiastic and it has been heart-warming to read the children's letters of appreciation. Please pray that the positive response to the Road Show will encourage teachers to present the Bible's

stories in an attractive and appealing way for many years to come.

Pray too that the seeds sown in young lives will have fallen on good ground to produce an abundant harvest in the years ahead.



Let me say a big 'Thank you!' to all of you who helped out as volunteers during the Road Show's five week stay in Gateshead. Your contributions

were invaluable. Several people have asked if we will be bringing the Road Show back to Gateshead. I know there has been interest amongst some people in both Newcastle and



Sunderland, so perhaps there could be another venture north for the Road Show next year or the year after. We covered 26 of the 75 or so primary schools in Gateshead, so there is plenty of scope for further visits!

Easter Services

This year's Easter services are as follows:

- **Good Friday, 6th April, 12 noon – 1.30pm**, a service of readings and prayers, preceded by a soup and roll lunch.
- **Easter Day, 8th April, 11.00am-12 noon**, an All-Age Service, for young and old alike.
- **Easter Day, 8th April, 6.30-7.45pm** – an evening service of resurrection celebration.



130th Church Anniversary

We will be celebrating our 130th birthday as a church over the weekend **28-29th April**. We are delighted that **Rev Ian Macaulay** has accepted our invitation to be our Guest Speaker for the weekend. Ian was formerly the Senior Pastor at Heaton Baptist Church in Newcastle, before moving north to take up the pastorate of St John's Church in Linlithgow, Scotland. Ian is a fine preacher, and accompanied me on my visit to India last year, where his ministry was very much appreciated. Details of our anniversary services are as follows.

- **Saturday 28th April, 6.30pm meal;**
7.30-9.00pm Celebration event.
- **Sunday 29th April, 11.00am morning service;**
5.30pm fellowship tea;
6.30pm evening service.

Please keep these dates free in your diary to join in our church birthday celebrations!

Praying street by street

Mandy Williams is coordinating our Prayer Request leaflet distribution, on a street-a-week basis. Please see her if you would like to join in with this. It was a great encouragement to receive an e-mail reply from someone shortly after we began this venture. Please pray that as we pray for those around our church building, God will be working in their lives to draw them to Christ.

AGM Update

Several important matters were covered at our recent Church Members Annual General Meeting.

• **Finances.** Income to our General Fund amounted to £47,646 last year, 20% above our target figure of £39,464. Expenditure, at £51,169 fell within our budget figure of £52,831, and included a £10,000 transfer to our Building Refurbishment Fund. If this is discounted, income exceeded expenditure by almost £6,500, for which we give God all the praise and glory. Our Home Mission grant was £5,500 so our 'surplus' exceeded this figure by £1,000. This is the basis on which we will seek to be self-supporting from 2008 onwards. Weekly offerings so far this year have been running at £449 against our budget figure of £420, for which we also give God all the praise and glory!

• **Building refurbishment.** The re-roofing of our Small Hall and Storage Annexe area has been successfully completed, well within budget. In fact, by God's goodness, we have over £10,000 in hand to carry forward to the next phase of our refurbishment programme. Our AGM agreed that we should seek grants for the renewal of the heating system for our halls and ancillary rooms, and take the opportunity to improve their insulation. The cost of this work has been estimated at around £48,000. Further estimates were given for the refurbishment of our Church Halls (£27,700) and the upgrading our ladies toilet facilities (£12,960). Grants will be sought to cover the cost of these projects, and we will trust the Lord to provide all the finances we need for them.

• **American Interim Youth Helpers.** The meeting agreed that we should proceed to the next stage of this exciting project. So ...

⇒ **What's it about?**

It's about a stream of Americans coming over for several months at a time to help with our youth work. The object will be for them to engage in outreach and discipleship initiatives amongst young people of secondary school age and above (11-25 years) under the guidance of the church leadership and alongside the church's youth leaders and helpers. The key benefit is the time they will have to engage with the young people we are in contact with (and others) outside our regular club/church times – something that those of us who currently engaged with the youth work don't have the time or, in most cases, the skills to do. I believe there is a positive advantage in receiving helpers from another culture, who can open the eyes of our UK young people to new possibilities in their lives. It is hoped they will have good opportunities to visit local schools and perhaps take

some short-term courses at Gateshead College to mix and mingle with the 16+ age group there.

⇒ **Who are we talking about?**

The interims are keen to come across in pairs for their mutual support. When visiting, contact making, and hosting young people, two people are more than twice as good as one person! We've been sent the profiles of two interims who are keen to come. Chuck McComb has indicated that they are typical of those who will volunteer.

(a) **Ashley** is the daughter of a full-time evangelist who has a passion for working with young people and a gifting for being able to speak to others about Christ. She is a student at Dallas Baptist University and will graduate in May 2009 with a BA in Communication Theory. She leads a women's Bible Study Group on campus. She has been to Venezuela four times on mission trips, taking part in door-to-door witnessing, crusade meetings and Vacation Bible Schools. She has also visited South Africa twice on mission trips – taking school assemblies, classroom lessons, street witnessing and evening meetings. She has considerable musical gifts, and has taken part in youth choir tours, and as a worship leader.

(b) **Jessica** is currently attending The Criswell Bible College, Dallas. She too has been on many mission trips worldwide, including church planting in Britain, building houses in Wyoming, helping with crusades in Venezuela, and street witnessing in New York City. She is an experienced summer camp staff member/counsellor, and is also musical. Discipling teenagers is her greatest passion. She enjoys painting, rollerblading, cooking and working outside with her dad!

(c) **How long would they be here for?**

Around 6 months, probably Jan – June and July- Dec.

(d) **What are our responsibilities?**

To provide board and lodging; interims would pay for their own return airfare

The meeting agreed that we should move ahead in faith for the first two placements (i.e. two six-month periods), reviewing after 7-8 months to decide whether to proceed with further six month periods. Please pray for the detailed work that needs to be done over the next few months to make this project a success – drawing up detailed job descriptions and briefing documents; the recruitment of volunteers through our partners at Dallas Baptist University; obtaining accurate costings for food and accommodation; applying for grants to cover the costs.

David Hunt