

## Hope 2008

A year from now, we will be reflecting on one of the most exciting evangelistic ventures to come to the Northeast for many years – J John’s *Just 10* series of outreach evenings based on the Ten Commandments. It will form the centrepiece of a yearlong emphasis on mission in the northeast, taking its place as part of nationwide initiative called **Hope 2008**.

**Hope 2008** is an exciting inter-church initiative, for which all the mainline denominations and many parachurch organisations have signed up. Its publicity booklet recognises that “for many years, Christians all over the UK have been doing a fantastic work in their communities, actively loving and serving those around them. *Hope 2008* is about harnessing this activity through the provision of quality resources and plenty of encouragement, to motivate and enable every church, denomination and person to do more to reach people in the place where they live, during the next calendar year.”

**Hope 2008** is “flexible rather than prescriptive, with churches designing a year’s programme that works for their own local community. It will rely on locally organised initiatives, but will also benefit from relevant and accessible nationally coordinated resources.”

## Time Line

**Hope 2008** is built around several key time slots throughout the year.

- Nationally, **Jan-Feb** will be a time for **Fresh Hope**, with a focus on inviting friends to contact-making events. Locally, here in the Northeast, churches will be running a six-week course called *Breaking News*, designed to help us share the Good News of Jesus more effectively with our contacts.
- March** will be the month for **The Big Hope**, based around the events of Easter (which is very early next year; Easter Day is Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March).
- April – June** will feature the *Just 10* mission; see below for further details.
- Nationally, the month of **May** pick up the theme of **Hope Where You Live**, with particular emphasis on the two Bank Holiday weekends. Christians throughout the UK will be encouraged to give *One Million Hours of Kindness* to their local communities through various social action projects. The aim will be to meet people’s practical needs in loving and imaginative ways. Pentecost Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2008, has been designated a Global Day of Prayer, bringing **Hope for the World**.

- During **July and August**, churches will be encouraged to undertake a week or weekend of focussed mission activity, supporting various nationally and locally organised flagship events. These could include children’s holiday clubs and camps.
- September** will see the launch of **Hope Explored**, with churches running courses to help people explore the Christian faith, such as *Alpha* and *Christianity Explored*.
- The year will come to a climax in **December** with all sorts of special Christmas outreach events taking place, offering **The Gift of Hope**.

We have committed ourselves as a church to support this programme in whatever ways we can that are appropriate for us in Gateshead. Watch this space over the coming 18 months for further details!

## Just 10 in the Northeast

Over the course of ten consecutive Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, starting in April 2008, Christians from across the northeast will be inviting thousands of people to consider the relevance of the Ten Commandments for their lives today.

To whet your appetite for his series of talks, you might like to purchase J John’s very readable book called *Ten – Living the 10 Commandments in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*.

J John is regarded as one of the most gifted evangelists in the UK today. His penchant for storytelling helps make the Gospel message accessible to those who aren’t used to listening to lengthy church sermons!

He deliberately begins his series of talks at the tenth commandment, working his way gradually back to the first commandment, when hearers are challenged to give God his rightful number one place in their lives. Here is an overview of the series.

- 10: How to find true contentment.
- 9: How to hold to the truth.
- 8: How to prosper with a clean conscience.
- 7: How to affair-proof your relationships.
- 6: How to tame your temper.
- 5: How to keep the peace with your parents.
- 4: How to stop driving yourself crazy.
- 3: How to take God seriously.
- 2: How to know the real God.
- 1: How to live by proper priorities.

J John believes his talks are “for adults and young people of all ages and backgrounds from the northeast – those who come to church only for weddings, funerals, harvest and Christmas; people we know and

love – family members, colleagues and fellow students. We pray for them because we care about them – people in need, the marginalised, those searching for meaning and purpose in their lives.”

The talks will take place in two venues, one in the south of the region and the other (very conveniently for us) in Gateshead, at the flower festival site near the A1 Lobley Hill interchange.

Here are some of the proven benefits of the *Just 10* mission programme.

- It builds on what is happening locally in churches and other Christian groups.
- It creates an excellent opportunity for people to share openly what the Christian faith means to them. People grow in confidence as they start to share their story of Christ's love for them.
- The Church as a whole benefits from a special season of teaching and mission in the public arena.
- It prepares the way for local evangelistic initiatives, both beforehand by way of preparation, and afterwards for follow up.
- It has the potential to impact the communities in which we live and work in a way that makes a real difference, spiritually, physically and emotionally.

Be excited by this great opportunity right on our doorstep – and remember, it's never too soon to start praying for it and for those we might take along to it.

### News Update

At our Church Members' Meeting last month, we agreed to set up a **Welfare Fund** to help those in acute financial need (i.e. those facing destitution without the support of others).

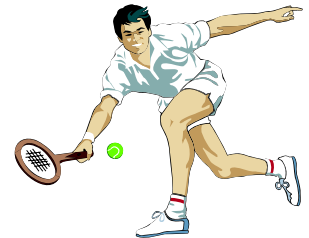
- It is intended to assist those who cannot work for whatever reason, who cannot claim state benefits for whatever reason, and who have no family to support them (in line with Paul's teaching in 1 Timothy 5, which we studied recently one Sunday morning).
- An offering will be taken for the Fund at our monthly morning communion service, but people will be free to contribute to it directly if they wish to do so. Donations can be earmarked for particular individuals if so desired.
- Money from the Fund will be distributed at the discretion of the deacons, following discussion at their monthly meetings.

### We're all going on a ....

Please remember in your prayers young people from the Church who will be going on a Christian holiday this summer.

• **Magda and Fibon Nyadu** are travelling to Whithaugh Park in Scottish Borders for a *Northeast Crusaders* holiday from Monday 20th to Friday 24th August.

• **Christopher Hunt** is going on a *Christians in Sport Holiday* at the Bromsgrove School, Worcestershire, from Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> August.



• **Richard Hunt** is helping out at the *Christians in Sport Holiday* in Edinburgh, from Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July.

• **Andrew Hunt** is helping out at two *Ewerne Camps*, from Friday 13<sup>th</sup> – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July and from Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> August (we think!).

### A Date for your Diary

Don't forget the **Church Barbecue on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July, 7.00-8.30pm**, part of our monthly *Fun and Food for all the Family* programme. Last month, about 40 turned up for our church barbecue, despite the appalling weather. It would be good to have even more for this month's event!



Let me take this opportunity to wish you all a time of rest and refreshment over the summer holiday period, wherever you will be – home or away!

**David Hunt**