

An Excellent Start

It was thrilling to be in the Big Tent at Lobley Hill for the opening night of J John's *Just 10* mission last month. The 6,000-seater tent was packed to capacity, so much so that some people had to be turned away.



The event provided some excellent teaching for Christians on the importance of contentment (based on the theme of the 10th commandment, *don't covet*), as well as including a clear call to the uncommitted to find their true security in Jesus Christ. Over 200 people went forward at the end of the meeting to express their commitment to Christ, some for the first time and others to renew their discipleship. A further 5,000 attended the Stockton gathering the following evening, with over 160 going forward at it.

J John is famous for his memorable one-liners. Here are just a few from his first message.

- *Our yearnings will always exceed our earnings.*
- *The average family ambition is to make as much money as they are spending.*
- *Money can buy a house, but not a home.*
- *Money can buy entertainment, but not happiness.*
- *Money can buy a bed, but not a good night's sleep.*
- *Our children need our presence more than our presents.*
- *Christian charity is about more than giving away what we don't want or need.*

J John provided us with a five-fold recipe for contentment.

➤ **Be grateful for what you have.** Cultivate an attitude of gratitude. Avoid the mentality that

thinks “*when ..., then ...*” as far as seeking contentment is concerned.

- **Recognise the limitations of wealth.** There are so many things that money *can't* buy (see the examples above); and yet these are often the most valuable things to possess.
- **Focus on people not possessions.** No amount of possessions can compensate for unhappy relationships.
- **Look beyond what is temporary** – the material things of this world, to the eternal realities of the age to come.
- **Be a giver not a grasper.** Jesus reminded us that *it is more blessed to give than to receive* (Acts 20.35).
- **Find your security in Jesus Christ.** Contentment comes from having a clear purpose in life. We discover our God-given purpose in living our lives for Jesus Christ, for *all things were created both by him and for him* (Col 1.16).



I know that having heard J John, many of you will want to encourage your friends and contacts to accompany you to The Big Tent, so that they too may discover God's purpose for their lives.

Continue to pray for the mission throughout its ten-week duration. Our Small Groups provide an opportunity for us to pray with each other. So try and get along to one each week if you can. They are taking place on Monday and Wednesday evenings, and at Wednesday lunchtime. Pray that God will do something amazing and long lasting throughout the northeast and for us at DRBC, to his praise and glory!

An Excellent Weekend

We were very privileged to have Rev Rodney Stout with us for our Church anniversary weekend as we celebrated 131 years of God's goodness to us as a fellowship of his people. Rodney took as his theme for the weekend *Rediscovering the Master's Plan*, based on the words of Jesus that we find at the end of Matthew's Gospel.

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." [Matthew 28.18-20]

On the Saturday evening, we thought about *Winning the Lost*; on the Sunday morning, we considered what was involved in *Building Believers*; and then on the Sunday night, we looked at the subject of *Equipping Christ's Workers*.

Tape recordings of all three messages are available for you to borrow if you missed any of these excellent sessions.

An Excellent Evening

We were privileged last month to enjoy a highly entertaining evening of music from the Gateshead Music Service's Swing Band *Paraffernalia*.



The band is made up of about 20 young people from local Gateshead Schools, together with two or three adults who help them out on a regular basis. Their standard of musicianship is excellent and they have been commended for it at various music festivals they have entered.

The young people in the band and audience of over 80 church members, parents and friends listened with rapt attention (see the photo below) to the clear testimony that Clarence Adoo gave of how God had worked in his life since a serious road accident, which left him paralysed from the neck downwards. Please pray that what he said will have made a lasting impression on the young people and all who made up the audience.



Gareth Williams kindly recorded the evening for us. If you missed it, or would like a CD of the evening, please let us know.

David Blakey, the band's conductor, is keen to bring *Paraffernalia* back to the Church in December to lead an evening of Christmas music and carols for us. It will provide us with another excellent evangelistic opportunity.

Dates for the Diary

- **Sunday 11th May:** Join us for a special **All-Age Pentecost Service** at 11.00am to mark the *Global Day of Prayer*, in connection with the Hope 2008 programme.
- **Monday 26th May.** We offer our warmest congratulations to **Dennis and Pat Kerridge** who will be celebrating their *Golden Wedding Anniversary* with a special **Service of Thanksgiving** in the Church, at 11.00am. All will be made most welcome.
- **Wednesday 4th June: Quarterly Church Members' Meeting**, 7.30pm.

David Hunt