

4 CORNERS

Magazine of
UFM Worldwide
Autumn 2009

Inside

3. Director's Desk
4. The blessing of hospitality
5. How many sermons are enough?
6. A new chapter in Congo
7. The work goes on
8. God's answer
9. From Islam to Christ
10. Reaching young people in Spain
11. Finance Update
12. Walking with God



Teaching the Bible in Kenya

There are a few remote parts of the country where there are still no churches at all, but in Kenya as a whole, there are tens of thousands of congregations. These congregations can be loosely divided into three groups

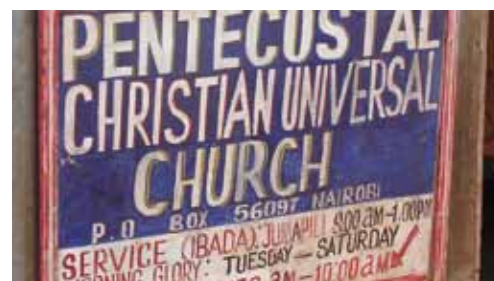


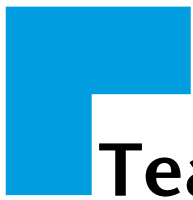
Large, long-established denominations

There are a number of very large and long established denominations in Kenya. Many of these are familiar to people in the West: the Methodist Church, the Lutheran Church, the Presbyterian Church of East Africa, the Anglican Church of Kenya and so on. There are also other large groups, for example, the Pentecostal Evangelical Fellowship of Africa, the Free Pentecostal Churches. Some of these have several thousand congregations, with in some cases, over a million members.

In the West, such denominations often have a large liberal element in them, with men and women denying the authority of the Bible, the deity of Christ, and his atoning death and resurrection. But on the whole, in Kenya, liberals are not such a large problem. A much, much bigger and widespread problem is this: in so many of these congregations, regardless of the official teaching of the Church, the message taught amounts to: "Do your best, help people, come to Church, say your prayers, donate money to the church projects and that is what God expects from you". Quite often that message also has attached to it a large dose of the "health and wealth gospel": "If you are a strong Christian, you should not be sick or poor or have any sort of hardship or suffering".

Continued overleaf





Teaching the Bible in Kenya

So, in these denominations, there are millions of people who consider themselves to be Christians, who believe that the Bible is the Word of God, but who do not know what the true saving Biblical message is.

But increasingly influential are the second group:

Independent Churches

Some of these are breakaways from the large denominations. Perhaps many years ago there was a congregation where two men both wanted to be the choir master; the one who "lost out", left and formed his own congregation, where he was the choir master. Or an elder took a second wife and was put under church discipline as a result, so he left and just established another congregation where polygamy was going to be allowed. Sometimes a group split off because they felt the missionaries were hanging on to leadership for too long. Or for a hundred different reasons, congregations formed that were independent of the big denominations.

But there are other independent churches. These have a far more African feel to them. Many are church plants

from Nigeria. They are, to my ears, incredibly noisy, with lots of drumming and dancing and wailing and shrieking. These have a strongly "OT" flavour to them: the members may wear white garments, with turbans for the men; there may be animal sacrifices in the services; polygamy is practised; there is often a great emphasis on ritual washings to symbolise (or produce) cleanliness.

In these churches the Bible is generally *assumed* to be the Word of God. But in practice, there is often little or no Bible teaching in these congregations. What the people are interested in are so-called direct revelations from the Holy Spirit. So there is great emphasis on obtaining "prophecies" and "words of wisdom". These are supposed to help a person gain power over the evil forces (and evil people) that oppose him. They are supposed to help a person find out who is putting a curse on him or who is responsible for his wife's barrenness or his children's sickness. They are to discover who has buried bad medicine or evil charms in my compound to harm me. And again, the message of these churches often has a "health and wealth" component as well.

So, in these churches, many, many people say they believe the Bible, but who have very little idea of what it teaches - people who never hear of the grace of God that has been shown to sinners in Christ Jesus; who never hear of the need for the new birth, or forgiveness of sins, or growth in holiness.

Finally, there is the third group:

Cults

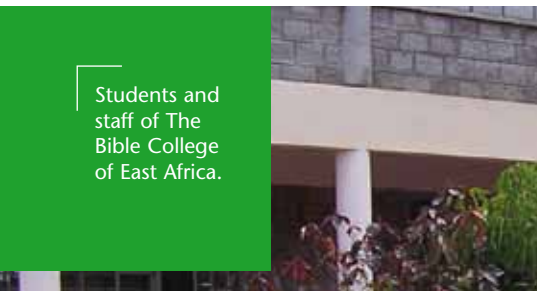
Two groups, in particular, are very large: the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Seventh Day Adventists. Again, people who have some sort of allegiance to the Bible (as well as other so-called revelation), but who have no idea of what it teaches.

So, millions of people in large denominations, tens of thousands in the many independent churches and huge numbers in the cults, all having some sort of respect for the Bible and so **the Bible is everywhere!** There are people reading the Bible on buses, parents reading it in school car parks while they are waiting to pick up their children, assistants in post offices and shops and garages reading it (when there is no-one to serve). The Bible is everywhere. But true Biblical understanding is a rarity.

The great need then in Kenya is for people to have a proper understanding of the Scriptures; and that means we need pastors who can rightly handle the Word of Truth. Thankfully there are many pastors who are aware of their lack of training and who are eager to study so that they can more faithfully teach the Bible to their congregations. And that's where my work comes in: teaching theology and training pastors, seeking to get good Biblical theology into their heads and hearts and lives.... so they themselves can live to the glory of God and teach the whole counsel of God to the people of God.

Martin and Claudia Bussey are newly accepted to work with UFM in Kenya. Martin teaches at the Bible College of East Africa and the Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology. They have five sons.

Students and staff of The Bible College of East Africa.



Director's Desk



Gospel ministry is often very demanding. Many of our missionaries are serving in hard places. Some are working amongst

Muslim people, others are working in a secular context or amongst people with great needs and some in remote places. There are times when the progress is so slow and the pressures build up.

Even when we experience great blessing on our ministries things are not always easy. It is possible in reading the New Testament to see the times of blessing and Gospel advance and to miss the fact that there was a cost for the servants of the Lord. Near the end of his life and ministry, Paul wrote his second letter to Timothy. He was confident of the ultimate success of the Gospel but was also realistic about the immense challenges. He wanted to encourage Timothy, his son in the faith. His exhortations are very relevant to us.

We need to "be strong." This is so important especially for people like Timothy, who was naturally timid. The strength we need is found in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The Lord gives us his grace again and again. He assures us of our constant acceptance and sure standing in him. He also gives us the supernatural resources we need to serve him. The hymn writer tells us that "He gives more grace when the burdens grow greater, he sends more strength when the labours increase." We soon reach "the end of our hoarded resources" but it is at just that point that "our Father's full giving has only begun."

We need to learn the secret of living and serving in the Lord's strength. Early in his journey Bunyan's pilgrim was taken to the Interpreter's House. There he was shown a fire burning by a wall with someone continually throwing water on it, but the fire continued to burn brightly. Then he was taken to the other side of the wall where a man was secretly pouring oil on the fire. The oil was a symbol of the Holy Spirit whom the Lord constantly gives to his servants to sustain us. When things are getting too

much for us we may need to consciously stop living in our own strength and find strength again in the Lord and in his Holy Spirit.

We need to "endure hardship." The call is to be faithful soldiers. Recently I watched a programme about the British soldiers serving in Afghanistan. Most of them were in their teens or early twenties. They lived in desert barracks, in searing heat with very basic facilities. They made frequent forays into the countryside to find the Taliban and knew that at any time some of them might be killed or maimed by a roadside bomb. They admitted to being afraid, but were determined to do their duty in that remote foreign country. Their pay is not high. In serving the Lord we, too, need to be prepared to endure hardship. Whatever happens we are safe in him and the power of his Spirit is able to change even enemies into friends.

We need to work hard. The analogy is of the farmer. Farming is demanding, heavy work. The animals and the fields need constant care. Farmers get up early in the morning and are on call 24/7. They are outside in all weathers. They don't have many days off or holidays. They are dependent on the rain and the sun and may lose both crops and animals to disease. If there is to be a good harvest they must work hard. The ministries of Jesus and Paul were busy and demanding. There were many discouragements from both circumstances and people but nothing deflected them. So, too, we must always give ourselves fully to the task, whatever our circumstances, confident that we will reap at the appointed time.

Christian service takes us outside our comfort zone. It is counter-cultural even to the normal life of most Christians in the UK. It is our personal response to the call of God who sets us apart for the immense privilege of serving in the work of his Kingdom.

When we feel weak, and at times we all do, and when our vision dims, and we all know something of this, it is good to re-affirm our resolve to keep on keeping on. Bunyan's hymn is a great encouragement to us. *"He who would valiant be 'gainst all disaster, Let him in constancy follow the Master. There's no discouragement shall make him once relent his first avowed intent to be a pilgrim. Since, Lord, Thou dost defend us with Thy Spirit, We know we at the end, shall life inherit. Then fancies flee away! I'll fear not what men say, I'll labour night and day to be a pilgrim."*

Peter Milsom





The blessing of hospitality

How do you feel when someone pops in unannounced? It's not always easy to welcome 'strangers'. You may worry how you will get on with them. Will they like the food or put extra pressure on the family in an already busy schedule? But the Bible commands us to be hospitable, to be kind and rich in good works.

The great example in the Bible of hospitality is Abraham and he is surely the one the writer had in mind in Hebrews 13 verse 2. "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels." When he saw the three men coming towards him, little did he realise they were angels, bearing the incredible news that Sarah his aged wife would have a child by the same time next year. Of course Abraham didn't know this when he welcomed them; he was just doing what we as Christians should do – being friendly and kind. It involved sacrifice – he had to put aside his own plans for the day, bear the pressure of the moment and make time to listen to their news. The biblical narrative emphasises his genuine welcome, kindness, warmth and generosity. But just imagine if he had instead grumbled under his breath at this unexpected intrusion of his normal routine and acted meanly; the good news may never have been given and he would have missed out on a great blessing.

Having a summer team means laying aside normal ministry, welcoming "strangers", cooking meals and making sacrifices as a family. There are extra apprehensions in being overseas too – the what if's – what if they can't cope with the heat, the insects, get homesick, don't get on between themselves, or with us, or fall ill a long way from home?

But what an incredible blessing we had! We have just waved off Valerie, Karen, Kathleen, Lindsay, Louise, Rebecca and Pastor Peter Cresswell from Yatton, this year's summer team to Brazil. They are no longer strangers to us! The team came from different countries and backgrounds but there was no sense of conflict – they were united.

Unlike Abraham and Sarah, we knew in advance they were arriving so we could prepare. Some things didn't go as planned, but God knew better. Some of the team arrived but others had been delayed in their flight from Heathrow. It was frustrating for them, but made things less daunting at our end as we got to know the members of the team in stages.

What a blessing it proved to be. For this one week we suddenly had seven keen, extra workers from 'back home' who willingly and joyfully got stuck in. Peter preached for Andrew both morning and evening and taught in Hebron seminary. The team painted-up two humble homes for Dona Irene and Dona Emelinda (two elderly ladies) who were really thrilled by their "good works".

They went into a public school and saw the shocking conditions of education for ordinary children. The team were all able to use their gifts and left a really good impression on the kids, teenagers and staff. The headmistress opened up in a way she had never done before about the difficulties she faces for funding the school, and our bond with the school was strengthened. It was a really profitable time.



Even the family's small 'sacrifice' was transformed into blessing. We never out-give God!



Our own Brazilian young people (especially the single lads!) were keen to meet the nearly all-girl team. There was time for beach volleyball one night and a social evening another. But most of all the team really helped at São Pedro, coming alongside the children for three days in a way which just isn't possible for Francisca and ourselves every week. They gave one-to-one attention and showed the love of Christ in action, bringing God's word in a gentle way each day to over fifty needy children, as well as having fun and games with them. Our next Sunday evening saw a good number of parents and children come along to the church in São Pedro. Clovis who leads up the work was so encouraged.

Just imagine if we'd said 'no' to having a team. There were all sorts of valid reasons to do so: it's the girls' holidays, we need family time or we're just too busy with ministry. Yet we would have missed out on so many blessings. How encouraging to see God raising-up the next generation as his witnesses. How healthy to meet Christians from different backgrounds and to see how God equips and uses each for his work. How good for our girls to have older girls visiting from the UK who could play with Amy, cook popcorn for Sarah, and share with Hannah and Maria about their career choices. Even the family's small 'sacrifice' was transformed into blessing. We never out-give God!

So next time you're asked to receive strangers, think about Abraham and Sarah. Be challenged by God's command to be hospitable. We didn't receive angels, but we had the joy and privilege of welcoming an experienced pastor and six godly young girls open to God's call to serve him as future missionaries – perhaps even here in Brazil. What a wise investment of time and energy. We wouldn't have missed it for the world!

Andrew & Jenny Love

How many sermons are enough?

How many sermons do you usually hear in a typical week? In the UK, with 2 Sunday services and one meeting mid-week, most Christians probably average 2-3 sermons a week (not counting those we download.) This, of course, is based on hearing one message per service. Is that too little, too much, or about right to give you enough food to fuel your spiritual growth? I suppose it depends on what they are like, and what we do with them.

In Eastern Europe where we labour, the usual church traditions in many Evangelical Baptist churches are quite different from our own. In Poland, Bulgaria, Belarus, Ukraine, Romania or Russia, you will quite often hear 2, 3 or sometimes even 4 preached messages during each church service you attend. That means, at an average of 3 per service, you might well hear 9 sermons a week if you go to church twice on a Sunday and once mid-week.

What an amazing opportunity, you might think! What a vast amount of spiritual food to encourage the growth of your soul and to deepen your understanding of the Bible.

Or perhaps not. You see, our experience over the last 2 years in Eastern Europe has been that our Christian brothers & sisters in the very churches and groupings who have such high numbers of preached messages every week, are the very ones who are often short on Biblical teaching and are often doctrinally fragile. Perhaps only a quarter

of the messages we hear have much expository quality to them. Hence in many congregations people are “underfed,” with all manner of wrong ideas and applications creeping into the church. Many have said to us that they sometimes “leave church hungry” for more of God’s word.

The issue is quality, not quantity. It’s sadly true that many of those who preach are not skilled or equipped to do so, most with little or no training in theology or in how to preach. In times past this was a necessity, as many pastors under Communism were imprisoned, so others took their place each week. But the practice continues today despite the new freedoms, and this affects the spiritual health of the church. Many of the messages that you hear in parts of Eastern Europe are lacking Biblical depth, theological backbone and valid application based on Bible principles.

How can we grow properly when the preaching we hear isn’t sufficiently challenging and isn’t teaching us the Word of God in all its depth and fullness? How will the church survive theological attack when its foundation is thin and shaky?

Our passion is to equip as many preachers as possible to better handle the Word, so that they can preach messages that are Word-centred and expository in nature, which teach the principles of Biblical truth, rather than man-inspired alternatives and stories. This is an interesting challenge in a country where

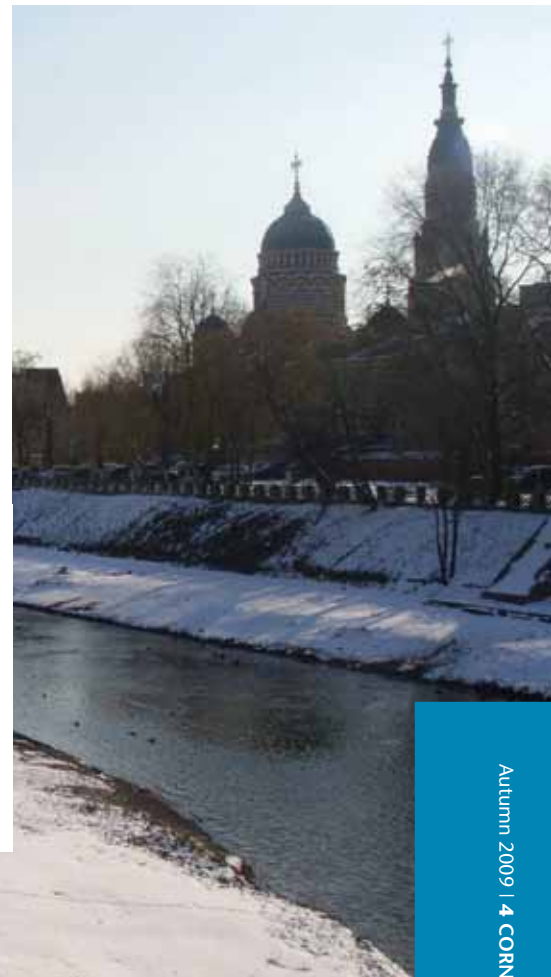
people feel they have plenty of preaching, yet don’t always recognise its lack of quality. From next year, we hope to invest in a new generation of young preachers, to offer 9 months of full-time training, aimed at providing some expository tools which they need to improve and develop the way they preach.

It will probably take a whole generation to make real progress in raising the standard that people here expect from their preachers. But do please pray for the setting up of this new Preaching Apprenticeship Scheme for Slavic young men – that it will have a great impact on the quality of preaching and the health of the church.

Surely quality is MUCH more important than quantity.

Andy & Tatyana, Eastern Europe

Many have said to us that they sometimes “leave church hungry” for more of God’s word.



A new chapter in Congo

Since the Lord called our sister Maizie home in December last year, we have continued to provide financial assistance to the CNCA churches from the gifts which have been sent to us for the work in DR Congo.

For the first time since 1931 we have no UFM missionaries designated for service in Congo. In May I met with two representatives of the CNCA church, Bishop Mehuma and Dr Dauly, in Kampala to discuss this new situation and to consider together the best way for us to continue to help them.

Ted Witmer, a missionary with Crossworld (formerly UFM International) based in Bunia, also joined us. Ted has kindly offered to assist us in the handling of financial resources given for Congo. He is in regular contact with the CNCA church leaders and visits Kisangani. He knows the situation on the ground.

Memorial Service

The Church had a joyous memorial service in December in Kisangani in memory of Maizie Smyth who died in December. Many gave testimony all night of the blessing she had been in their lives. Scores were helped with their schooling fees, hundreds were blessed by her teaching in Bible schools and conferences, and thousands of children heard the gospel and many believed. She managed many projects for widows, orphans, the blind, and handicapped. She initiated a Christian Radio station, RTEDI, and a Christian bookshop, and she helped to build many places of worship. She served as principal fund raiser and treasurer for the CNCA churches. She was a pillar for the CNCA Church.



We enjoyed a good time of fellowship and agreed the way forward. This agreement has since been confirmed by the UFM Council. Our agreement covers the following points:

1. A new partnership will now be established between CNCA and UFM. CNCA will take full responsibility for its ministries and the financing of them. CNCA will define its future vision and priorities.
2. CNCA will identify priority projects which can realistically be achieved and request financial assistance through UFM, as much as is possible. UFM will seek to provide financial assistance from donations received from Christians and churches in the UK.
3. CNCA requests that UFM seeks a missionary, or missionaries, to be based in Kisangani. Both CNCA and UFM will pray for such people to be raised up.

It was also agreed that UFM will be willing to assist CNCA in establishing links with like-minded churches in other countries and in encouraging the sending of cross-cultural missionaries from CNCA churches.

This agreement means that we will be happy to continue to receive gifts for Congo Projects. In consultation with the CNCA leaders, we will identify specific projects for which we will seek to provide financial assistance. Details of these projects will be sent to those interested in praying for the work and to those wishing to provide financial support. The level of assistance will depend on the total amount of gifts we receive for Congo Projects.

Donors will be able to identify the projects they wish to support or, if they wish, to give an undesignated gift to be used where most needed. Regular news will be sent to donors, and to those who wish to receive it, to keep them in touch with how the various projects are going. We will liaise with Ted Witmer and Crossworld, who are also continuing to assist the CNCA churches.

A regular Congo Update will be prepared. The first edition was available in July. If you would like to receive this and future updates please let us know.

We have reached a point to which those who have served in Congo through the years have worked. The CNCA churches are taking full responsibility for their various ministries. We encourage you to pray for the CNCA churches and for their leaders as they face this new challenge. They are very grateful to the Lord for all that has been done in the past by the many missionaries who have so faithfully served in DR Congo and also for the prayers and financial support of many UK Christians and churches. They will also appreciate any help we are able to give them as they begin this new chapter in the work of God's Kingdom in Congo.

Peter Milsom



The work goes on



The streets are packed again with bicycles and motorcycles. Life is returning to Kisangani after the war. Saw mills cut wood from the forest for construction, and transport on the mighty Congo River has resumed. But how is the CNCA Church? What is happening?

Evangelism: A team from Diguna, a German sister mission, visited Kisangani to prepare for 4 months of evangelism beginning in July in the interior of the country bringing trucks to carry evangelists along the various roads that link Kisangani to the rest of the country. Maizie initiated the program with Diguna.

Radio: At the same time the Diguna team installed a new antenna tower 60 feet high for the radio station in preparation for a Dutch team who came in June to install all new digital transmitters for the radio station to make the Christian station one of the most modern and powerful in the city as a platform for preaching the gospel. Maizie initiated the contact with Help for the Brothers (in Germany) to fund the radio project upgrade and the Dutch experts to design and install the new equipment.

Bible schools: CNCA has 10 Bible Schools to prepare pastors for ministry. Every year Maizie provided Bibles and basic Bible study books for the graduates to use as they go out into ministry. This year there are over 200 graduates. Obtaining books in French, Swahili and Lingala for pastors to use is extremely difficult and expensive in the middle

of Africa. Maizie, however, was able to stock a supply which will permit 50 graduates to receive a French Bible and about 25 graduates some Bible study books in French. The supply Maizie left is running out, and none remain in African languages. A major project is underway to supply a container load of Swahili Bibles for Christians in Congo.

Development projects: In a poor country, creating opportunities for agriculture and work is crucial for the Christians to improve their lives. Recently, the CNCA has been able to distribute machetes and tools for clearing new fields at a number of church locations in order to improve the lives of these people. They continue to raise goats. They would like to open a pig project. The CNCA has started a saw mill to produce lumber for all the development projects of the Church. This gives employment and income to help the church to meet some of the many needs of its people. It has also permitted preaching the gospel to some Muslims who live near the place where the saw mill is operating. The development department also runs a project to teach the many adults who are illiterate how to read and at the same time is able to evangelize those who attend. There is also a micro-enterprise assistance section to this department. Pray for effective development and funds to continue the projects.

Medical: The medical department suffered greatly during the war when medicines were unavailable causing many people to die of curable diseases. CNCA now has a supply of medicines arriving in Kisangani and plans a refresher course in lab techniques with a supply of new microscopes in June. The medical department is also starting to build a new teaching hospital to train Christian nurses for rural ministry, areas that are vastly under served in the country. Many health centres need to be refurbished and restored as well.

Schools: Over 50% of the population of Congo is under 18 years old. The schools, like this one dedicated on 8 April, are full and overflowing. The Church runs many schools throughout the country, which is a significant means for evangelism of the youth. Many

schools need simple benches, black boards, chalk and encouragement. Others have poor buildings and need new roofs. The needs seem endless, yet are real and produce lasting fruit. The great majority of the leaders of the Church today started in the CNCA primary and secondary schools. The chaplain's department has requested thousands of New Testaments to equip the schools for their task of evangelism.

Sunday Schools and Women's Ministry: These ministries now operate with little outside assistance. Please pray that the Congolese in charge of these active ministries will have wisdom and strength to meet the task as the number of children and widows is great after the war.

So ministries of the CNCA churches continue. Jesus Christ is building His Church and we can see in Kisangani the lasting fruit of the life of faithful ministry. The Church has vision for new areas of ministry and evangelism. They need to replace church benches destroyed in the war, and want to develop an Internet café to help Christians learn how to use computers. Many need assistance for their school fees. Faithful men like the CNCA President Mehuma and the new Treasurer Pastor Ngando, pictured with Ted Witmer, are helping to see projects continue and grow in the days ahead.

One great prayer request of the Church is for someone to come from the UK to live in Kisangani and help to provide liaison with the churches in the West. The Church would love to welcome someone with whom they can work in partnership in the work of building Christ's Church in the Congo. Please pray for the Lord to meet this need.



God's Answer

Nazareth Evangelical Theological Seminary is a remarkable place. Nazareth is Jesus' home town. Evangelicalism represents his authentic message. Theology is the deep study of those truths, and a seminary is a place where future leaders may learn. That is 'NETS'. The seminary opened its doors two years ago. Now we have around thirty students as we begin our third 'session'. This is a remarkable achievement in so short a time. How did it happen?

First, the evangelical churches of Israel recognized the need to train their elders and pastors without their having to leave the country for theological training. Second, we recognized the need to provide this training cheaply and conveniently, using evening classes so that the students could stay in their jobs and in their church roles. Third, we devised training that is spiritually alive, biblical faithful, and culturally relevant. Our aim is to train people for serious theological understanding, biblical preaching and spiritual empowerment by the Holy Spirit to expound and proclaim the gospel.

Every country faces its own peculiar challenges, shaped by its spiritual history. Britain, for example, has lived on the borrowed capital of Victorian evangelical life for a long time and is only now facing complete bankruptcy, spiritually and morally. Imagine then what it means to have the whole Bible as your country's spiritual heritage, not to mention the third most sacred place in Islam, a hundred years of Crusades, five hundred years of being a vassal state to the Ottoman Empire, then the centre of attention concerning a Jewish homeland, and finally being the place where Jesus will return. Some heritage indeed!

This is still 'The Holy Land' – holy by virtue of God's gift to Abraham, by virtue of being the one place on earth where God has physically dwelt in the Temple's Holy of Holies, by virtue of being the place where God was incarnated in Jesus of Nazareth, where Jesus was crucified and resurrected, and where he will return in glory.

But wait – here is a spiritual principle of epic proportions! What God makes holy, Satan seeks to make unholy. So it is that the three great monotheistic religions inspire the vast majority of its population yet the result is more, rather than less bitterness, strife and war-mongering. Both in Jewish and Arab politics there is a blatant degree of dishonesty and corruption, as news reports frequently remind the world.

God's answer to Satan is sometimes revival, but always the Church. This is the community God has created to defy the world, defeat Satan, proclaim the gospel, and to anticipate heaven. That church in Israel is small, disorganized, and all too divided. None of that can change it from being the Bride and Body of Christ, the People of God, the elect from every nation called to be his witnesses in the world.

In Israel, that requires equipping the church for ministry and mission. NETS has a vision to raise up a whole generation of faithful and anointed leaders embracing all the believing communities and creating personal bonds across them. Mission here requires understanding the world of the Bible and the modern world of Israel. Mission here requires building bridges 'full of grace AND truth' between the tiny evangelical community and the traditional churches, the various Jewish communities, and the ever-growing Arab Muslim populace. It means proclamation and it means 'works of mercy' that will make the Church not only a beacon of gospel truth but spiritual life and moral hope for Israel. Satan hates it, people ignore it, but God loves it. That makes Israeli believers, whether Jew or Gentile, profound realists and glorious optimists!

Philip Hill



This is still 'The Holy Land' – holy by virtue of God's gift to Abraham, by virtue of being the one place on earth where God has physically dwelt in the Temple's Holy of Holies



Reaching Young People in Spain

When we left Northern Ireland in May 2001 to serve the Lord in Spain we never imagined we would be doing what we now are doing. In fact, I had not owned a video camera let alone had operated one. But as we served the Lord in Puertollano we soon realised that barriers were being broken down with the help of the audiovisual material we were producing on DVD. In the comfort of their own home, people could see that the Evangelical Church was not a strange sect but rather that we wanted to share the love of God with them and it wasn't long before Roman Catholics were saying things like, *"it's amazing what the Evangelical Church is doing", "they aren't a strange cult", "I want to send my children to camp next year"*.

The FIEIDE (Federation of Independent Evangelical Churches in Spain), with whom we work in Spain, heard about this and asked if I could make a DVD that could be sent to all the churches in Spain to inform and mobilize Christians to get involved in the Lord's work in Spain and in other countries. I agreed to give it a go and I remember thinking afterwards, "How on earth am I going to do this?" But "When God calls, he also equips for the task."

It was out of this that a new ministry for us developed and I am now setting up an audiovisual department for FIEIDE based in Northern Ireland. Yes, it seemed strange to us, too, a few months ago – the thought of having a ministry into Spain and living in Northern Ireland, but we strongly believe the Lord has guided us to this point. The past 8 years in Spain have been a vital preparation for this new ministry.

I will work alongside FIEIDE's Mission and Evangelism team in the production of audiovisuals to motivate the Spanish Christians to get involved in world mission. I will also assist FIEIDE's online theological school by producing teaching DVDs to be sent to the students throughout Spain and also uploaded to the school's website.

I will also seek to produce evangelistic audiovisuals which can be used on internet sites and networking sites like

Facebook. These will be great ways to share God's love with others.

According to recent studies 80% of Spanish young people are registered on at least one social network i.e. Facebook, Myspace, and 70% of these network users have registered in the past two years. We need to reach young people in Spain where they are and many of them are now on the Internet.

God has given us powerful resources which are relevant to people of all ages in this generation. The challenge is for us to use what he has given us to share the good news about Jesus for his glory and honour.

Susan too will have her own role in the ministry and writes:

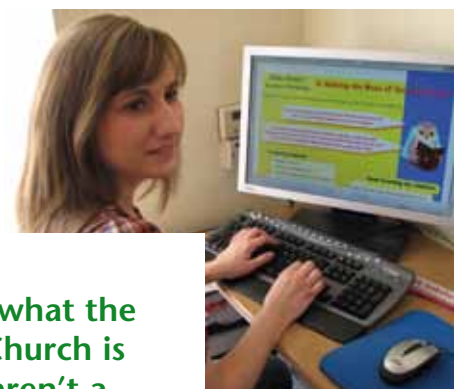
"During our time in Spain I always felt a great burden for the children; it's where I feel most comfortable ministering. I noticed that in Spain there was a lack of resources for children's work, with little thought really put into what children should be taught and how they should be taught. It's not just enough to tell children a Bible story every week and get them to colour in a picture, they need to learn about God in a structured way and learn how to apply Gods principles to their own lives.

So since returning to the UK I have been asked by FIEIDE to help set up

a curriculum for the Spanish Sunday schools and also to help provide them with more resources for the churches. I was delighted when I came in contact earlier this year with the Director of 'Go Teach' Sunday School material and was given the go ahead to translate it into Spanish. Over the next few years I am hoping with the help of others to translate Go Teach into Spanish and to be able to have this published and made available in Spain and also other Spanish speaking countries.

For me it has been a great source of encouragement to see how the leaders of Go Teach have been so willing to allow this to happen and for their excitement about the project. Alongside this ministry I also hope to help in the online Spanish theological school. Please also pray for the opportunity I have to go into primary schools here in Northern Ireland for a couple of hours a week to teach Spanish to the children, that God would use me in this as well.

Jonathan & Susan Sanlon

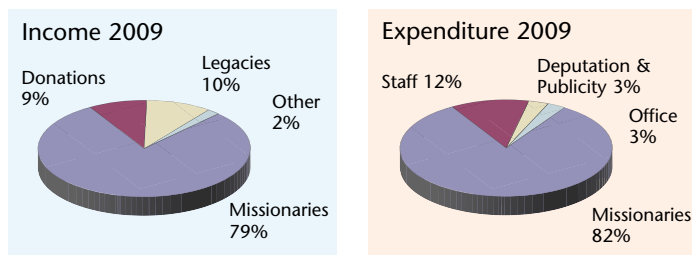


it's amazing what the Evangelical Church is doing, they aren't a strange cult, I want to send my children to camp next year.



Finance Update

The Council of UFM Worldwide acknowledges once again the goodness of our God in providing for the financial needs of the Mission. Our latest accounts are for the year ended 31 March 2009. The following chart summarises the income and expenditure of the Mission for the year:



Donations for the support of our missionaries in the year were £1,556,759, an increase of 7.6% on the previous year. Expenditure in support of our missionaries was £1,613,596, an increase of 12.2% on the previous year.

One of the great challenges we have faced has been the decrease in the value of the pound, especially against the euro and the dollar. This has increased the cost of supporting our missionaries by as much as 30%. As a result over the year there has been a decrease in funds earmarked for missionary support of £56,837.

Income to our General Fund, which is used to pay the overheads of the Mission, was £421,280, a reduction of 7% on the previous year. Expenditure for the year from General Fund amounted to £367,367, a reduction of 3% on the previous year. Income to our General Fund exceeded expenditure by £53,913. After adjusting for the decrease in the market value of investment assets there was a deficit on General Fund of £131,053.

The adjustment to market value of our investment assets is an unrealised loss which we are required to record in our accounts by the accounting rules for charities. We continue to hold the investment assets and the value of these has increased since the end of March as stock markets have recovered.

As a Council we are grateful for the sacrificial giving of many Christians and churches who have continued to support us financially in the face of the turmoil in the economic world. Please continue to pray that we may be good stewards of the resources that God has made available to us as we seek to bring the Gospel to the nations.

Called2Serve Weekend

26-28 February 2010

at Hebron Hall Conference Centre, near Cardiff.

A missionary awareness and training weekend for those interested in cross-cultural service.

For more information contact Jonathan Redhead.

Email: jonathan@ufm.org.uk

Comings and Goings

October

Jason and Andrea Murfitt to UK for Home Assignment

October

Mark and Gill Newham to Mongolia

October

William Brown visit to Ivory Coast

November

Andy and Tatyana to Eastern Europe

What's on

Glasgow Rally

Friday 2 October at 7.30pm

at Sandyford Henderson Memorial Church, Glasgow.

Speaker: David Barnes

For more information contact Iain Cameron

Email:

iain@ufm.org.uk

Irish Youth Conference

16-18 October 2009

at CEF Conference Centre, Portadown

For more information contact William Brown.

Email:

william@ufm.org.uk

Prayer Day

14 November 2009

For more information contact any of our offices.

Email:

prayerday@ufm.org.uk

Christmas Cards and Calendars that assist our ministry

Once again this year we shall benefit from the sale of Christmas Cards and Calendars produced by Gospel Cards, etc.

20% of their Christmas Card sales and 5% of their Calendar sales will be given to 40 Christian missions, including UFM Worldwide. Produced to a very high standard, the various calendars make excellent gifts for children, families and adults; while the cards are perfect for sending to Christians and non-Christian family and friends.

For full details, please see their website, www.GospelCardsEtc.com – or ask for a catalogue:

tel. 01656 647551 or write to Gospel Cards etc, PO Box 56, Bridgend, CF31 1WG.

Walking with God

Do you keep a journal? I used to as a young man and in recent years I have started to do so again. At the end of the day (usually) I try to gather my thoughts as I reflect on the Word of God and try to process the circumstances and events of the day and apply biblical thinking to them. Without the writings of people such as Wesley, Whitefield, Edwards and Brainerd we would be far poorer; their journals are among the classics of Christian literature. We may never achieve their heights, but their example is, I believe, one to follow. So I want to encourage you, too, to keep a journal.

Think of it like this: How much can you remember of the last sermon you heard or the Bible passage you read this morning? What has the Lord has been doing in your life over recent weeks? If you don't know, you are like the man who forgets what he has just seen of his own face in a mirror (James 1:23-25). Maybe you need a journal to help discipline your mind and heart. Some people say that goldfish have a memory of about seven seconds, but that is nonsense because the fish in my pond remember from one day to the next that I feed them! No, the creatures with the shortest memories are Christians who read the Bible without it making any difference to their lives. So what can we do about it? The blessed man is he whose *'...delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.'* (Psalm 1:2) It is this practice of reflecting seriously and deliberately on Scripture and the ways of God in our lives that can be helped by journaling.

Gordon MacDonald quotes from his very first journal entry in 1968: *'If just one person could look into the window of my soul and see me for what I really am before God... they would catch a glimpse of several frustrated forces – some good, some bad – fighting for the dominance of my heart. Were it not for the promise of God in Philippians 1:6, I should have doubts regarding the outcome. No one could chart my desperate desire to love Christ. Few would appreciate my hunger to see him break forth in power in my life.'*

And so began a daily discipline which he has kept up for the past forty years. He set

...delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. (Psalm 1:2)



out to chart his walk with Christ, to assess the competing forces at work upon his soul, identifying and naming them so that he can deal with them in a godly way. How often do you do that? The discipline of journaling could help to that end.

But this is not a panacea for all our problems. Our faith must be in God, not in journaling; our desire to chart the progress of our inner lives must always lead us to Christ and to greater trust in him. And beware of introspection; self-examination is good, but not the sort of morbid self-absorption that picks over every failure and sin. If you are that way inclined, then your journal needs to be something different – a deliberate testimony to the promises, glory and grace of God as they work themselves out in your life. Robert Murray M'Cheyne said that for every one look I take at myself, I should take ten looks at Christ.

But it remains a fact that modern life is geared towards superficiality. A journal could stem this drift as you focus your mind and heart by recording God's dealings with you and daily realign your disordered life before him. Many people who have been greatly used by the Lord wrote a journal. Do you want your life to count for something – for the Lord and for eternity? Maybe keeping a journal could help you.

Matthew Evans
(Matthew has recently joined the UFM Council and is Pastor of Rock Baptist Church, Cambridge)



145 Faringdon Road
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN1 5DL

Telephone
01793 610515
Fax
01793 432255

email
admin@ufm.org.uk
website
www.ufm.org.uk

Director
Peter Milsom
Assistant Director (Personnel)
John Mark Teeuwen
Chairman of Council
Richard Myerscough
Chairman of Irish Committee
Albert Smyth
Chairman of Scottish Committee
David Carmichael

Ireland
Howard Buildings
26 Howard Street Belfast
BT1 6PD
Telephone
028 9024 2404

Scotland
11 Newton Place
(Sauchiehall Street)
Charing Cross
Glasgow G3 7PR
Telephone
0141 353 0666

Magazine Editor
Richard Myerscough
Design and Production
Adept Design
01263 734198
www.adeptdesign.co.uk

4 Corners is the magazine of UFM Worldwide, Registered Charity in England and Wales (No. 219946) and in Scotland (No. SC039343)