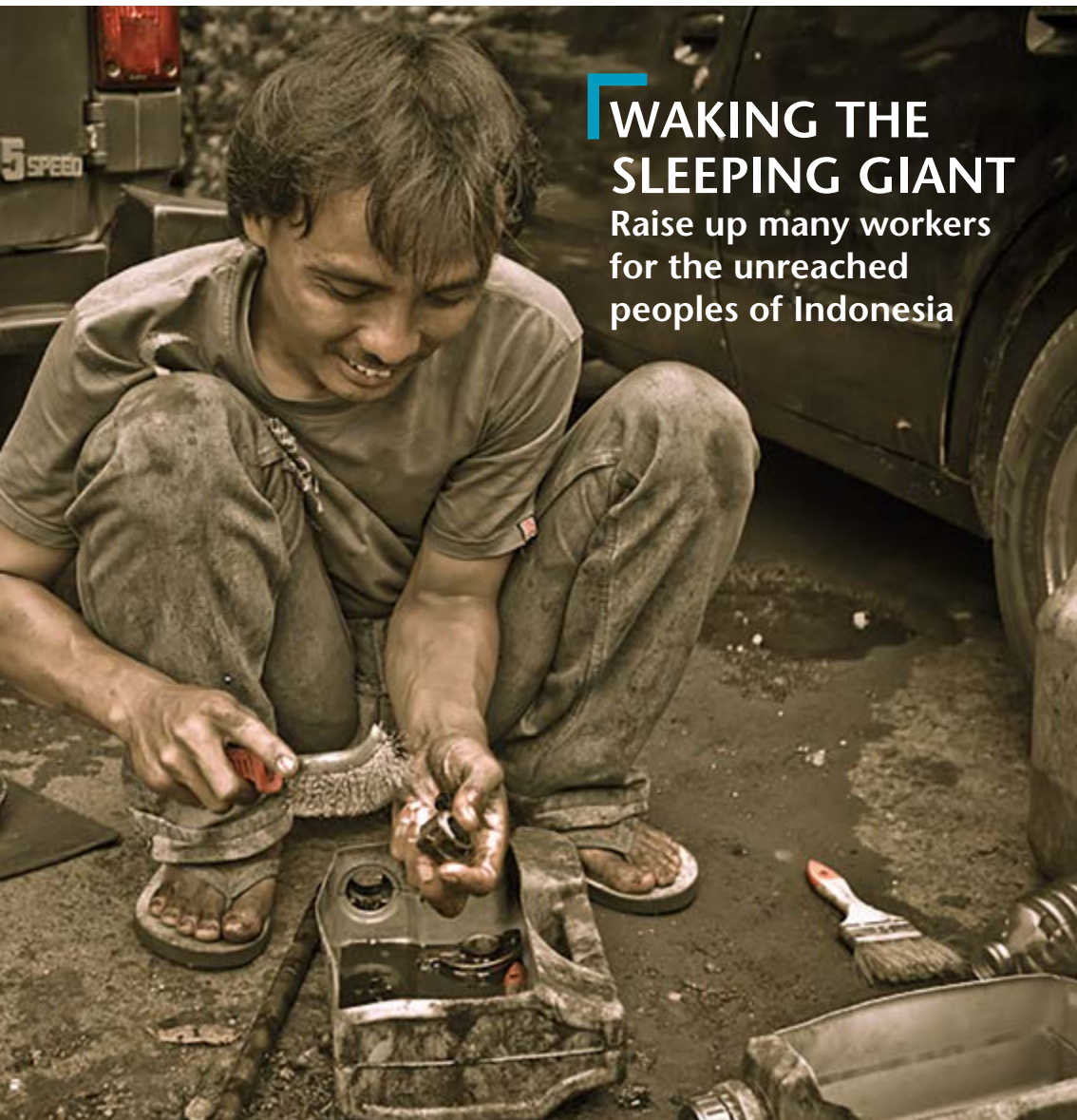




ufm
united for mission

4 CORNERS

MAGAZINE OF UFM WORLDWIDE | SUMMER 2015



WAKING THE SLEEPING GIANT

Raise up many workers for the unreached peoples of Indonesia

SEMINARY ON A CHIP
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Welcome to the Summer 2015 edition of 4 Corners!

WHAT DOES UFM STAND FOR?

We are often asked what UFM stands for. It is a great question and gives us a wonderful opportunity to say something about what we believe God is shaping us to be and how he is using us.

Sometimes people ask the question because they are just trying to figure out what the letters 'UFM' stand for. The explanation isn't as easy as you might expect. When UFM was founded in 1931 it launched as the *Unevangelised Fields Mission*. In time, UFM was established in the US as well as in the UK, and for clarity's sake the US and UK agencies came to be known respectively as, UFM International and UFM Worldwide. In more recent times UFM International (US) changed its name to Crossworld and is now

an independent mission agency. In the UK, UFM Worldwide came to be registered with the Charities Commission, not as *Unevangelised Fields Mission*, but as UFM Worldwide (just the letters). And that is how we are registered today. In that respect UFM is not an acronym.

We are more than happy to talk about how UFM's name has morphed over the years but it doesn't always work that well to have to do that whenever anyone asks, 'What does UFM stand for!' We hope, by having added the words 'United for Mission' to our logo we will help people have a sense of who we are more easily. United for Mission is not a new name but a tag line to say something about who we are that connects to the UFM letters. 'United for Mission' in so many ways – with our UK church partners, our missionaries, receiving churches and projects, supporters, staff and many national and international agencies.



WHAT DOES UFM STAND FOR?

To have a name, a logo and a tag line that work well (hopefully) is great.



It means that we can quickly move on to what UFM really stands for! In our logo the 4 corners represent the 4 corners of the world, 'into all the world'! But they also work as an expression of our core convictions; 4 corners that give stability, a base on which to grow and build, 4 corners giving a distinctive shape to our love for God, our love for his people and our love for the lost. We have reworked these convictions recently and wanted to share them with you.

Our convictions:

'This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins' – 1 Jn. 4:9-10).



COMMITTED TO THE GOSPEL

- We proclaim, teach & live the truths of biblical, historic Christianity.
- We believe that every word of the Bible was inspired by God through human authors, so that the Bible as originally given is in its entirety the Word of God, without error and fully reliable in fact and doctrine.
- Our mandate is the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ (to "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising ... and teaching them to obey all I have commanded you.").
- Our priority is to take the Gospel to unreached people and to serve under-resourced churches.

COMMITTED TO THE CHURCH

- Missionaries are sent by churches, not agencies.
- Our missionaries have a clear sense of call to missionary service that has been confirmed by their local church.
- We serve a growing number of churches in the UK, the Republic of Ireland and around the world, working closely with them to develop global vision as well as in sending and supporting missionaries.
- We partner with many national/international churches/agencies in areas such as pioneer evangelism, student ministry, church planting and pastoral and leadership training.

COMMITTED TO PEOPLE

- We aim to be a family, not simply an organisation.
- We aim to be flexible – our structures are there to serve people as they serve the Lord.
- We have missionaries serving in over 40 countries worldwide and are happy to enable missionaries to go anywhere in the world, if possible.
- In partnership with sending and receiving churches and projects pastoral care of our missionaries is a priority.

COMMITTED TO THE LORD

- We acknowledge that the work of mission is the Lord's work, not ours.
- We seek to put to use the tools that God has given to us for his mission – his life-changing Word spoken in the power of the Holy Spirit, in prayerful dependence on the Lord.
- Our missionaries look to the Lord to raise up teams of supporters who will identify with them in prayer and financial support.

I hope you enjoy this edition of 4 Corners from which you will see that we are truly united for mission and are living out our convictions as we seek to bring the Gospel to the nations.

Thank you so much for your fellowship with us in the Gospel.

JOHN-MARK

WAKING THE SLEEPING GIANT



JAKARTA

Not many things about Indonesia are small. Take the geography. We're not sure who counted, but we're told that Indonesia is made up of over 17,000 islands. This vast archipelago stretches out across an area the size of Europe and is filled with the world's fourth largest population.

And then there's the economy. For many the financial struggles in this developing country are huge – over 25 million people live below the poverty line. Millions of others barely scrape a living. Yet if all the projections are to be believed, by 2020 the growing consumer class will outnumber the rest of the population for the very first time. This is a country with vast economic potential.

Sadly natural disasters are frequent and often on a massive scale. Earthquakes,

landslides, volcanic eruptions ... and who can forget the Boxing Day tsunami of 2004 when over 150,000 died in Indonesia alone.

Not many things about this country are small and that's also the case when it comes to religion. Whilst not an Islamic state, Indonesia has the biggest Muslim population of any country in the world. Over 85% of its population – that's nearly 200 million people – would describe themselves as Muslim. Within that number there's a whole range of beliefs from radical to nominal, from folk Islam to simply a cultural marker. Yet however strong or weak people's allegiance might be, the reality is that this is their default position; this is all they have to fall back on.

And yet, in the midst of all of this sits South East Asia's largest church. Over 20

million profess Jesus Christ as Lord. The potential of the Indonesian church to impact their Muslim neighbours is huge, yet the barriers are great. There are plenty of reasons why the majority of churches here find it hard to reach out with the good news of Jesus. Perhaps 3 stand out:

CHRISTIANS ARE A MINORITY

Many feel overwhelmed by the size of the task, a challenge compounded by the legal pressure not to witness to those from a different religious background.

THE CHURCH HAS BEEN AND IS PERSECUTED

Christianity is recognised, but opposition is a reality. At times Christians have been and are persecuted. Fear is, therefore, a barrier to outreach in many areas.





THE DIVERSITY IS IMMENSE

With nearly 800 people groups spread across 17,000 islands speaking more than 700 heart languages, the cross cultural nature of the missionary task can't be understated.

And so we can understand why so many churches simply choose to co-exist, to keep themselves to themselves, and to focus on things other than reaching out. After all, it's not a problem unique to Indonesia.

The size of the task, humanly speaking, is overwhelming. There are 229 unreached people groups. We live among the largest; 33 million Sundanese people, with less than 0.1% believing in Jesus.

The Indonesian phrase for unreached people is *suku terabaikan*, literally 'a people ignored.' That's certainly the case for the 37 people groups here in Indonesia that have yet to be served at all. No workers, no church, no plan to reach them. The largest is the size of Liverpool.

And in all of these fascinating facts lies the reason we came:



"Serving the church to see the next generation of Christians equipped and mobilised for cross cultural mission within and beyond this great nation."

We have the privilege to work alongside our Indonesian brothers and sisters in student ministry, local churches and theological education. We teach and train in biblical preaching so that the message of mission might speak for itself as the Bible is taught week by week in the local churches. We teach and train in biblical mission, trying to show our brothers and sisters that Jesus has not only given us a task, but also

the tools to do it through his Word preached in the power of the Holy Spirit. And, of course, we try to live out what we're teaching to others, befriending Muslims and taking the opportunity to share Jesus with them.

The Indonesian church has been described as South East Asia's sleeping giant. Please pray for your brothers and sisters here. The task before them is huge, the work is hard and the opposition is real. Yet God is able. Pray that he will raise up many workers for the unreached peoples of Indonesia, that millions more might praise his name.

M & R



SEMINARY ON A CHIP



If asked what the greatest challenge facing the global church today is many will say “Islam” or “Terrorism” as this is what we are saturated with in our news media. However, what does not make it into the news is the rapid growth of Christianity in many parts of the world.

In East Africa it is estimated that there will be an additional 1 billion Christians within the next 40 years. In China some estimate that there are currently

100 million Christians, which actually exceeds the membership in the Communist party. Operation World has just noted that the two fastest growing churches in the world are in Iran and Afghanistan.

With this good news comes a new type of challenge – theological training. In Africa we could never build and staff enough seminaries to meet the full need. In China the government has begun a new round of persecution on the public

face of Christianity. In Iran and Afghanistan you would be jailed or killed for even attempting to engage in such training.

This great need has led OneHundredFold to partner with Third Millennium Ministries and Birmingham Theological Seminary, both in the USA. Together we have built a free online Certificate in Christian Ministry course. The course lasts one year and is available in English and Spanish – see btsfreeccm.org.

After just over a year there are more than 2000 students from 94 countries enrolled in this training. About 1/3 are in the US and the rest are in the other 93 countries. Now we are working with our partners to make the same high quality video and audio lectures and PDF textbooks available on the internet in Chinese, Arabic and Russian.

However, our partners soon pointed out that many of the people who most need training either do not have access to the internet, or the internet is too expensive for them, or training content like this would be blocked. So we created a device that allows people to take the full online class without access to the internet. We call this device the "Grapevine" as we hope it will yield a great deal of spiritual fruit.



The Grapevine produces a private Wi-Fi cloud that the student can connect to with their mobile phone. Once connected to the Grapevine the student has the experience of taking

an online class, just as if they were connected to the internet but everything is local to the device itself.

We have just supplied a series of Grapevines to be used by about 1000 theology students in a country where they cannot access any theological materials on the internet. After this deployment we started to receive requests from several potential partners asking for Grapevines for their theological training needs. In this way we hope to serve tens of thousands of students.

But our vision has not stopped with the Grapevine. Now we would like to develop the entire year long training system on a single micro SD chip that can be placed in a phone. Our research indicates this "seminary on a chip" is within reach and now we are praying for the Lord to



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provide the resources, both in skilled personnel and finances to develop this theological training tool for the Global church.

Our desire is to make sound, high quality, training accessible to anyone who needs it – for free. This would not be just for pastors, but would also include elders, deacons and anyone involved in the work of the Gospel in the local church.

Thank you for praying with us.

ED

Leader of
OneHundredFold Team

I HAVE PLACED BEFORE YOU AN OPEN DOOR

Many people have asked me about the effect of recent events in France upon our ministry amongst ethnic minorities. In fact, while Christians may be more afraid of radical Islam, our Muslim friends are actually more open than ever to the Gospel. Most are embarrassed both by the attacks in France and the recent beheading of Christians in Muslim countries.

FEAR!

What makes Western Christians reluctant to tell Muslims about Jesus? FEAR! The media feeds this fear. The almost daily deluge of masked militia, or bearded men with head scarves holding weapons, fills Christians with suspicion and makes them afraid to share their faith: *What if this guy is actually a terrorist and I end up on his "hit list?"* This fear blinds us to the people's great need of the Saviour because we focus on ourselves and our love of security and safety. Not all Muslims are terrorists!

RECENT EVENTS

I tend to think of modern Islamic radicals as "proto-evangelists" for the Christian faith! The first of these was the Ayatollah Khomeini. The atrocities of his brutal regime in Iran led many Iranians to leave their country. It also led to an exodus of Iranians out of Islam. Some Iranian believers have called the Ayatollah "the greatest missionary,

because he showed us what Islam is really like." ISIS or the "Islamic State" is the latest in a succession of groups and states working for the absolute application of Islamic law. Their declaration of a new caliphate has alarmed the Muslim world. The group's clever, and successful, propaganda films glory in violence, hostage taking, beheadings, sex-slavery and the slaughter of Muslims and non-Muslims. The recent burning to death of a Jordanian Muslim pilot seems to have stepped beyond even the brutality of Islamic law.

But God is Sovereign! Reports from local Christians and missionary agencies tell us that, as a result, more Muslims are coming to Christ now and still more are attending Christian meetings. "I have been a Muslim for forty-one years, and in all that time had never questioned Islam. But now, I have decided to leave it," said a Muslim student. She told a Christian missionary that she had watched ISIS videos and been horrified by the brutality that they justified as the "methods of the Prophet."



EACH1REACH5

You may not be able to go to Iraq, Pakistan or Syria to share your faith, but they are coming to us! The mission field is next door. To help you overcome your fear, we encourage 'Each One to Reach Five' Muslims whom they meet in various circles. This was launched as a project called 555 (Pray for 5, Give to 5, Invite 5). The idea is:



Pray – write down the names of Muslims you meet in

various circles (work, class, market, neighbourhood, family, etc.). If you do not know the name, write a description: 'the man who works in the shop,' etc. Circle five names and ask God to prepare their hearts, to help you overcome your fear and to show you who you should go to first.



Give – Christmas is a wonderful time to give presents to your Muslim

friends. Most Muslims know that Christmas is to do with Jesus. So why not give those five people a nicely-wrapped present containing a bilingual New Testament, a Gospel booklet and a box of chocolates (or any other gift).



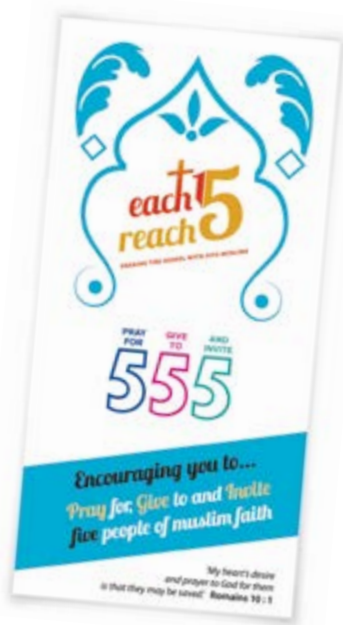
Invite – invite the five Muslims to church services and other meetings.

Kindly and repeatedly invite them. Muslims need to see

the fellowship of Christians, their unity and love for each other. In John 17:20-23, the Lord says that as people see love within the local church non-Christians (including Muslims) will understand what true discipleship looks like and will understand why Christ has come. There is a common misconception that Muslims will never come to church. Of course some will refuse, but others will come.

Imagine how many Muslims will hear the Gospel if each Christian overcomes their fear and witnesses to just five Muslims!

We have a leaflet available to help you take up this challenge. Please feel free to write to the UFM office should you wish to receive one. You can watch a 2-minute video presentation of the project here: goo.gl/4M1ym0



I have been a Muslim for forty-one years, and in all that time had never questioned Islam. But now, I have decided to leave it



SERVING IN THE SUNNY SOUTH EAST



Greetings
from the
Sunny South
East!

Suzanne and I have been serving the Lord in Waterford Baptist Church since autumn 2008 – a little over 6 years. Waterford is Ireland's oldest City. Henry II landed there in 1170 and declared it a Royal City. It is steeped in Ireland's history.

Waterford has also had a long history of slow progress for the Gospel. When we arrived in Waterford a dear

friend said 'welcome to the missionary's graveyard' – what encouragement! Our experience has been that it is slow – but there is progress! We are so grateful to the Lord to be here and remain as thankful as the day we came. We believe our calling is for the long haul and to see out our days here, the Lord willing. Another thing that we are exceptionally grateful for is a small core of long term members who have remained incredibly supportive of us and the work. They are in the church because of the faithful ministries of previous pastors.

LIBERAL IRELAND

As I write to you, today is the day that Ireland is voting on whether to make Same

Sex Marriage part of the Irish Constitution. For a number of reasons Ireland is violently throwing off the conservative moralism imposed by the Catholic Church. The media, and all political parties, are campaigning for a 'Yes' vote. Last Saturday a dear brother from Tramore, Ian Kennedy, who was converted in the Baptist Church during the days of Pastor Michael Grant, was preaching in the town centre. He eventually had a group of about 40 people around him who quickly became hostile hurling expletives at him, with two young women kissing in front of him. He said, "It got ugly."



CHILDREN AND YOUTH

An area of real encouragement has been the Sunday School work which is being run by Suzanne and Madeline Byrne. We have seen this work grow and on Sunday mornings there are good numbers – sometimes more than can be looked after. The children are really keen and there is lots of fun for them. Above all, the children are loved and taught from the Bible. The Sunday school has been a source of wider encouragement as we are seeing families coming along together. I think of one family which is a special encouragement. The mother is on shift work and has often attended after finishing a night shift. The children pull her along saying, “Come on Mum, we’ve got to go to Sunday School.”

The summer is especially encouraging as we have the UBM teams in Tramore for three weeks. This year we are also hosting a CEF camp in the church. We have also noticed that there is a small number of teenagers to whom there is no focused ministry and we are planning to begin a monthly meeting, initially, for them from the autumn onwards with the help of our friends Rob & Joni Wills (CEF).

WIDER MINISTRY

We have found that inviting families to “traditional” events such as Christmas



services has been effective as our Catholic friends feel more comfortable to come in at that time. We have the children involved and it was also a delight to see Shelly and the family last Easter. Her husband, Eugene, was a member of the church and died a few years ago. The use of Christianity Explored in homes continues to be a source of blessing.

OUR FAMILY AND HOME

One area of prayer for us is about our house. We have been renting in Ireland since 1996 and have prayed since then for an opportunity to own our own home. There are a number of advantages to us in having our own home, not least to provide

We believe our calling is for the long haul and to see out our days here, the Lord willing.

some future security for Ben, our third child who has Autism. Wonderfully, the Lord supplied the facility for us to buy a house. It is in a great location, near enough to the church, it has some land for the children to play. The downside being that the house has suffered fire damage, which is why the purchase price was within our range! So, we have a building project ahead of us! Please pray for the Lord’s provision to complete the restoration of the house.

DAVID NEALD



RESPONDING TO THE TRAUMAS OF WAR

There is a time for words, and a time for action!" This is what one pastor said recently about the church's response to the terrible war raging in Eastern Europe. Everything in the country in which we serve has now changed, yet the opportunities for the Gospel are more than ever before!

It was with great sadness that we had to return to the UK last year. The Lord was opening doors into profitable areas of service for us, but God had a different plan for this region, which we did not foresee or choose.

Three regions of our country have now been taken over by separatist rebels, in league with well-equipped

foreign military forces. The tragedies have been terrible, with over ten thousand dead, thousands injured and traumatised, and over one million displaced persons. How can Christians and churches make any impact amidst such devastation and pain?

The churches gave themselves to prayer, and then very quickly the Lord led his people into new areas of service that he is using to reach hurting people. The pastors now talk of, "adjusting to a new reality," as nothing that went before is ever likely to be the same again. This conflict could drag on for a long time to come. We have been able to support God's people there in three main spheres of service:

SUPPORTING THOSE WHO HAVE TAKEN IN REFUGEES

Almost every church in our city has taken in refugees – they are sleeping everywhere, from people's floors to Sunday school rooms, to church pews, to empty office buildings. People with nothing, with no food or money, who have come out of the war zone seeking help and hope, have been taken in by Christians.

Many of these refugees have been seeking the Lord, due to the practical kindness of Christians that has opened their hearts to the Gospel. Dozens have already been baptised, having come to faith in Christ. Tatyana has made a number of trips back, taking aid and support

to families who are very poor anyway, yet now even more so, having taken in complete strangers for the sake of the Lord. We have a refugee family living in our house too, please pray for them. Tatyana has helped to organise a trauma care conference for Christians supporting the hurting.

REACHING ABANDONED COMMUNITIES

It has been heart-breaking to see that so many villages and communities have been cut off from usual supply lines because they are trapped in "No man's land" between the two armies. Even the pseudo-ceasefire that has reduced some of the shelling has not brought gas or electricity or food to any of these hundreds of communities.

So we have been supporting Christian teams who go through the military checkpoints into all these places with bread, hot soup, groceries, clothes, duvets, wood burners and Bibles – sharing practical love for those who have been abandoned, as well as sharing Jesus with all whom they meet. God is using these trips remarkably to win souls.

SUPPORTING THE PERSECUTED AS THEY REACH OUT

For those Christians and churches that chose not to be evacuated from the occupied regions,



Refugees sleeping in church



Baptism of refugees



Bread and Gospel distribution

terrible persecution has returned. As I write these words, the rebel leader just announced that only 4 religions will be tolerated in the new 'Republics'; Russian Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Islam and Judaism. All the others, he said, will be "excommunicated from our society...I'm going to fight hard against the sects." This includes all evangelical Christians.

Sadly we have already seen this, as the beatings and imprisonments have begun for some of the pastors and those reaching out. Church buildings are also being confiscated. We must pray for our brothers and sisters there who, despite the threats and dangers, continue to reach out to those in need around them.

**ANDY & TATYANA,
EASTERN EUROPE**

Many of these refugees have been seeking the Lord, due to the practical kindness of Christians that has opened their hearts to the Gospel.



Christmas outreach

"If you put your marriage ahead of your ministry, you'll probably have a good marriage and a good ministry."

RIDING THE WAVES IN MALAWI

Lee, Fai and Titus live on the fringe of Chilomoni Township, serving in both the City of Blantyre and the rural areas around the tea plantations of Thyolo.



Picture yourself floating downriver. Beside you there are two South Africans, two Spaniards, two Belgians, a Nepali and a Japanese. Now, it's not just any river: you are floating towards some serious white water and you are on board a precarious inflatable raft. Moreover, it becomes obvious, as you reach the first set of rapids, that not everyone had been listening carefully to the instructions given out some twenty minutes earlier. Then, it turns out that even those who were paying close attention seem to have very different ideas as to what the

command, "Hard right!" means. Some thought it meant turning quickly and sharply to the right, others inferred that they were to dig down forcefully with their paddles on their right-hand-side in order to go left. Still others are most surprised to have been asked to do any work at all, as they were expecting something of a sightseeing pleasure cruise.

That's the scenario one of us was in some years ago on a turbulent Asian waterway, and it's a very similar situation at the international church where

Lee pastors. Not only are there people from many different countries all thrown together alongside a growing Malawian contingent, but people from all sorts of denominations and understandings. Some have never heard the Gospel clearly presented. Amongst the rest, there are a whole

variety of views regarding what a healthy church should look like, what the mission of the church should be, and who should be doing it.

Disaster was narrowly averted in the whitewater-rafting episode by: (i) establishing good communication; (ii) agreeing on the basics; and (iii) getting everyone involved. Likewise, with these three prayerfully in place, and the Bible in the driving seat, we've seen Blantyre Community Church move away from the rocks and become increasingly united for mission.

To extend the illustration a little further, imagine your dismay if, after finally settling the crew to the task at hand, you'd gone just a few more corners downstream only for the raft to pull up beside the riverbank and half of the team to get off and be replaced by a comparably raw and diverse bunch! The parallel is that many people are here in Blantyre on a short-term basis and leave the city after only a year or two, or perhaps even

a matter of months. They come to serve in hospitals, schools and orphanages, or for business opportunities, and soon return home. If you were to set foot on a whitewater raft you'd surely want to be on board with a core group of people who knew what they were doing, where they were going and weren't going anywhere else soon. Equally, the challenge for us, in God's grace, is to establish a core of local people who are firmly rooted in the Gospel, and equipped for leadership in the church, to form a more stable base from which to win, build and send out disciples around the country and across the world.

Thankfully, there have been many encouragements to accompany the often choppy waters along the way. Christianity Explored courses have been full with waiting lists on standby and, in the last two years, the church has gone from 5% to around 50% local people. We've moved location to a more central venue and we're soon to start a midweek outreach to city centre workers. Lee's

role is also to help equip our rural partnership churches so, arguably, as the opportunities abound, our greatest corporate need is to raise support to fund extra workers in order to develop and train local leaders.

More personally, we find ourselves ever needing to draw boundaries in the face of relentless demands. As someone has said, "If you put your marriage ahead of your ministry, you'll probably have a good marriage and a good ministry. If you put your ministry ahead of your marriage, you'll probably have a bad ministry and a bad marriage." We covet your prayers for wisdom and grace as we seek to go the distance on all fronts.

LEE AND FAI FURNEY



Sunday School at Blantyre Community Church



Lee visiting the rural church pastors

BUILDING BRIDGES WITH STUDENTS IN SLOVENIA

K was invited by 2 unbelieving friends to a games' night at a team member's house. They knew we were Christians, but had told K that we were 'all right'. However, K later said that if we'd prayed or done any weird Christian

stuff she'd have left immediately. Thankfully we didn't, we're still friends and she's even reading Luke's Gospel! These are precious answers to fervent prayers two years ago for me to find friends and for God to use me here in Slovenia.

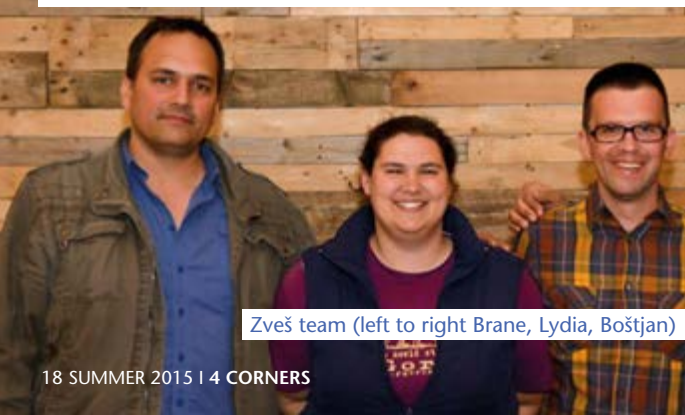
WHAT IS SLOVENIA LIKE?

Slovenia is a really beautiful central European country nestling between the Austrian Alps and the Mediterranean Sea. It's a post-Communist country that was formerly part of Yugoslavia. 60% of the population are nominal Roman Catholics but most of the younger generation are atheists. It has the fifth highest number of suicides in the world. Bible-believing churches are very small and isolated. Most Slovenes have never even met a Bible-believing Christian. There are less than 2000 Christians in Slovenia and very few Christian students.

Zveš, for whom I work, is a small, pioneering work whose aim is to encourage Christian students to point their fellow students to the Lord Jesus Christ and to encourage each other in lifelong service to Christ. It's linked to IFES and UCCF in Britain. But Zveš's progress has been very slow because of a shortage of manpower, the churches' distrust of each other and the apathy of Christian students about evangelism. We organise public debates where people such as John Lennox are



Work in Maribor



Zveš team (left to right Brane, Lydia, Boštjan)

invited to lecture on scientific and philosophical issues and to point people to God and explain the Gospel. The huge number of attendees shows that people here are searching for the truth but they are very reluctant to admit and discuss faith personally.

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES?

When I came here over two years ago the situation was very bleak with no regular meetings in any of the universities but we thank God because this year he's blessed us with much interest shown by international students. They are Erasmus students, here for only 6 months; so there is much coming and going. But they have many links with other students. We held a series of events introducing Slovene culture as a springboard to discussing more specifically Christian issues. One was held in a restaurant in which we provided a taste of Slovene food and to our delight, and trepidation, more than 120 people responded on Facebook! We managed to fit 90 in the room and ordered extra food. It was a great opportunity to talk and get to know students and many continued to come even when the topics became less cultural and more about spiritual issues. This semester there are about 8 international Christian students and two Slovene students who regularly come to our events. We meet every Monday to talk about prayer and to pray. Laura, an Australian student who is here

for 12 months, is volunteering with Zveš next term. She, and the others, have many contacts with students and many opportunities to share their faith. They have started a small group to read Luke's Gospel with their unbelieving flatmates and friends. Please pray for them and for two Australian volunteers arriving next term to help us.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

Brane – Zveš's new General Secretary – is a Slovene. Although we are delighted with the response of the international students our deep desire is to reach the Slovenes themselves. It is illegal to hold religious meetings on campus and although Slovene people are very polite they seldom come to our events. They're very private people who tend to live, socialise and share with family members and childhood friends throughout their lives. But with God nothing is impossible! Two Slovene students have started to help the work this year and we pray that they'll be able to reach their fellow Slovenes.

I have some contact with Slovenes through playing

Tarok (a complicated Slovene game!) every Friday with three unbelieving Slovenes. When I first met them they said that they hated the word 'God' and 'Jesus' even more. So it became my goal to change their opinion of God. I have already seen some change. We don't judge them for what they believe, but treat them with respect and try to answer their questions rationally and honestly. We're probably the first Christians they have met that actually live what they believe.

What I have treasured during these two and half years is learning to trust God in everything and to experience his care and love. Please pray that I will walk close to him and recognise his guiding to those he wants me to help.

LYDIA

It has the fifth highest number of suicides in the world. Bible-believing churches are very small and isolated. Most Slovenes have never even met a Bible-believing Christian.

The 90 international students



EVANGELISM IN BURKINA FASO

THROUGH TEACHING ENGLISH

Paul must have been changed by God because nobody could make such a dramatic change as he did without truly knowing God". We were nervous about using the book of Acts as our Bible discussion in the "English For Everyone" course last semester because many of our language students are Muslim, and Paul doesn't get a good press in Islam.

This comment alone, made by one of our Muslim students half way through the last course, demonstrates why we put ourselves through an hour and a half of grammar, vocabulary and role play four evenings a week in order to teach

half an hour of the Bible per lesson. Little by little, brick by brick, the wall between the false religions and the true God is dismantled as we simply read, comprehend and discuss with our students the eternal word of God; with me trying, as far as my lack of self-control will allow, to let the Bible speak for itself.

"English For Everyone" is a ministry which began 10 years ago in Ouagadougou, the capital city of Burkina Faso, after a couple of university students asked a SIM missionary to help them learn English. We now teach 120 students on a 2-semester course, from beginners level through to advanced, with a waiting list averaging 70.

We regularly see the Lord working through this ministry in varied ways. Three weeks before the beginning of the last course the Director and I sat down and prayed for God to bring us teachers. We had 2: her and me.

For each course ideally we need 8 teachers willing to prepare, teach, set and mark homework for at least 2 nights a week for 24 weeks a year. Each teacher needs to be able to engage with a class of 20 adults, to teach with enthusiasm, and be able to direct a Bible discussion, sensitively, balancing a classroom of Evangelical Christians, Roman Catholics and Muslims. I have found no atheists in Burkina Faso.



By the opening day of the course we had a full complement of teachers, and as the semester continued it became obvious that, not only that God had blessed us with teachers, but also they were teachers who were skilled, devoted, enthusiastic and Christ-centred.

As the course proceeded we saw the Lord working as we got to engage one on one with the students and answer such questions as: "If salvation is free and we can do nothing to earn it, how do we know that we are saved?" or "Are angels male or female? Because when I dream, they never have faces." Some questions we delve deeply into. Some we don't.

If you had asked me five years ago whether I could see myself co-directing an English language school in Burkina Faso, I would have run a mile. Always in our minds was the traditional bush ministry of translation and church planting. Because of various civil wars in our country of choice, Ivory Coast, we were diverted in 2011 to Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. With a population of 16 million it is one of the poorest countries in the world, with Islam dominating in the north and Catholicism in the south. Our first two and a half years were split between church planting and evangelism in a disaster relief settlement 15 miles outside of Ouagadougou called Yagma. We also taught English to young professionals and students opposite the university in town.



After my body gave real hints that these two ministries would eventually kill me if I carried on with them in tandem I went on home assignment. We came back after a year in the UK to concentrate on the English ministry. The church plant in Yagma is now taking care of itself. I still spend a couple of hours a week in Yagma, wandering around, drinking coffee and engaging in a couple of Bible studies, and taking the opportunities God affords me. Strangely enough sitting on a termite-rotten bench, eating rice and sauce, with a Bible open, in 40 degrees heat, surrounded by mud huts is now my escape.

We continue to pray for passionate Christ-centred teachers, for the unconverted to come along and be changed eternally by the Word of God, and for ways that we can build this ministry to be more effective for Christ.


We are encouraged by one of our teachers returning home to Buffalo, New York, with the intention of setting up a similar school to reach out to an African community near her. Two of our Roman Catholic students have asked for regular Bible studies outside of class time. One of our Christian

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students was asked to translate on a children's camp for a visiting team from the States, from English straight into the local language Mooré. Another student felt comfortable enough to ask for our help when a friend of hers sought an abortion. We were able to put her in contact with a couple who work in helping girls who feel trapped like this, and we ended the evening praying together in our home.

On the face of it, an English school isn't exactly the pioneering work we thought we would be doing, but while the opportunity is here, and as long as we continue to enjoy the generous welcome of the government, then we have a continual supply of unbelievers willing to hear and study the Word of God. We pray that, through the Word of God, they will become our brothers and sisters in Christ.

BEN GRIFFIN

A close-up portrait of an elderly woman with short, wavy, light grey hair. She has a gentle smile and is looking directly at the camera. She is wearing a light blue V-neck sweater and a colorful beaded necklace with blue, green, and yellow beads. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some green foliage.

My most treasured memories are of getting to know people through interviews, conversations and visits and hearing of the ways in which God brought them to himself and to UFM.

REFLECTIONS OF 44 YEARS ON THE UFM COUNCIL

The UFM Council plays a vital role in the ministries of UFM and our missionaries. We thank the Lord for the way in which Council members make their time, gifts and ministry experience available so freely to help the work of UFM. Doreen Sharp has recently retired after nearly 45 years as a Council member. Here she shares some of her reflections on that time.

WHAT MISSION EXPERIENCE DID YOU HAVE BEFORE YOU JOINED THE UFM COUNCIL?

I was brought up in a family that was very involved in mission with four of the older members being missionaries. My husband, a doctor, was the son of pioneer missionaries in Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. Before I met him John had dedicated his life to serve God wherever he led and so when the call came, after our marriage, to help start a hospital in South West Uganda we responded, although John felt that this was rather more like going home than the Hudson Taylor image of a missionary! The site chosen for the hospital had been a flax factory during the war so, after our arrival in 1958, the work began of transforming it into a hospital in fellowship with the Church of Uganda with the aim of serving the local community in the spiritual and physical care of patients.

There were many indications of God's provision of all that was needed and Kisiizi Hospital is still going strong. My husband became ill with a brain tumour and died in 1966. I spent two more years in Uganda working in a school for missionaries' children and running courses for local Sunday School teachers. I returned to UK in 1969 for the education of my three children and, until my retirement, worked in mission situations, including Redcliffe Missionary Training College and the Red Sea Mission Team (now Reach Across).

HOW DID YOU COME TO JOIN THE UFM COUNCIL?

When I arrived at the Ealing UFM HQ in 1970 to meet with David Ross the General Secretary I had no idea that this was the beginning of a relationship on the Council of the Mission that would last for more than 44 years. I knew the only lady on the Council, the Vice-principal of Redcliffe Missionary Training College, and at her suggestion I was invited to join the Council to double the feminine point of view. There was much to learn as I knew little of the UFM except about the missionary martyrs of the Simba rebellion in Congo. I soon came to know Joe and Evelyn McCartney who were linked with a local London City Mission fellowship.

HOW HAS UFM CHANGED DURING THE YEARS YOU HAVE SERVED ON THE COUNCIL?

In 1970 there were 4 countries where applicants could apply to serve: Brazil, Congo, Ivory Coast and Papua New Guinea. In recent years the Council agreed to accept applicants for service anywhere in the world. Now we have workers in over 40 countries and have moved into the digital age with 100Fold workers in the USA committed to proclaiming the Gospel through digital media.

WHAT HAVE YOU ESPECIALLY ENJOYED ABOUT YOUR TIME ON THE COUNCIL?

My most treasured memories are of getting to know

people through interviews, conversations and visits and hearing of the ways in which God brought them to himself and to UFM and had kept them through all the challenges of missionary life.

For a few years I was on a committee that met in Spain and so had the joy of staying with missionaries. I can't forget my time with a couple who were church planting in the town of Ponferrada in the north of Spain. They lived upstairs over a family that kept pigs which seemed to be housed inside the house at night! Getting there by train was an adventure and I was moved by the kindness of fellow passengers who offered me fruit on the journey, but saddened to know that there was no Gospel witness in most of the towns and villages we passed through.

It was through attending the European Conference that I found many worthwhile opportunities to share accounts from missionaries of their joys and struggles. This was not only in meetings but in afternoon outings, the most memorable being a boat trip on rough seas to see fascinating caves on the Spanish coast, but most of us felt so ill we longed to get back on dry land.

I have greatly appreciated fellowship with Council members and the office staff – people who care deeply about the spread of the Gospel throughout the world. The Mission has seen many changes, but the God we serve is still the same, yesterday, today and forever.

DOREEN SHARP

WHATS ON

Family Conference

27-31 July at Hothorpe Hall,
near Market Harborough

Bible Ministry: Rupert
Bentley-Taylor, Bath

This conference is open to
all interested in knowing
more about UFM.

For more information
contact Debbie Fitch.
Email: debbie@ufm.org.uk

Annual General Meeting

30 July Hothorpe Hall at
5pm (Family Conference)

Belfast Autumn Conference

10 November

Bethany Baptist Church,
Bangor

For more information
contact Gillian Carson.
Email: gillian@ufm.org.uk

Glasgow Rally

2 October 2014 at 7.30pm

Trinity Possil & Henry
Drummond Church,
2 Crowhill Street, Glasgow,
G22 6SR

For more information
contact Iain Cameron.
Email: iain@ufm.org.uk

SUMMER TEAMS

This year 5 Summer
Teams will be going to 3
continents. Please pray
for safety in travel and for
spiritual blessing for the
teams and for those to
whom they minister.

9-23 July & 23-30 July
Greece

27 June - 4 July Hungary

7-23 July Ivory Coast

16-30 August Thailand

14-28 August Moldova

OPERATION CENTURION TEAMS

3 Operation Centurion Teams
will be going to Moldova:

1 - 27 June

29 June - 11 July

13 July - 25 July

WEDDING

Please pray for Joel Willmer
(Sierra Leone) and Taryn
Ferrando who will be married
on 8 August.

COMING

May

Mark & Gill to UK
Edward & Esmé Zárate to UK
Susanna Clarke to UK
Michael & Rachel to UK
Debs Prisk to UK

June

Martin & Claudia Bussey to UK

July

Lucy Haslam to UK
Tuangpi & Michaela to UK
Becca Jones to UK
Ruth Duffin to UK

GOING

June

Mark & Gill to Asia

July

Martin & Claudia to Kenya
Michael & Rachel to Asia
Debs Prisk to France

August

Ruth Duffin to Thailand

September

Esther Barczaitis to Brazil



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