

The Outlook

from Hope December 2003 page1

A small black speck

It was only a small black speck. How could anything so little have such a big impression on my day? But there it was - under the skin of my forefinger and creating a searing sharp pain that just never let up. Everything I handled that day seemed more difficult because of the irritation, and the agony it caused made me wince every moment. It made me regret - a lovely afternoon spent chopping and weeding in the garden. The joy of what was achieved was snatched away, because of the pain I felt - from just one small black speck! Just a quarter of a centimetre long - so insignificant, and yet such an impact!

I could not leave it any longer. I had to address the problem. A soaking in hot water, a bit of amateur surgery with a needle, a blob of pumping blood. It was out! It was over!! Why on earth hadn't I dealt with it earlier? 2,000 years ago - no-where place miles from the big city. In a far distant corner of a mighty empire, an insignificant little shack at the back of small guesthouse. In amongst the hay and the cattle and the muck - a small black speck appears on the face of the world, as a baby is born to a nobody woman, married to a nobody man. How can such a 'small black speck' have an impact on a troubled world? How can such a child cause people to worship...people to change...people to experience joy and peace like they have never known before?

How can tens of millions claim to have known salvation, hope and power in their lives, because of the arrival of a child like this?

Only because He is God 'in the flesh'. Not just another ordinary baby. Not just an extra number for the Bethlehem census! This is Jesus - arriving with no style, no status and no crown.

Come and worship Him this Christmas.

Come and join the hundred or so at Hope, and know that you join with a congregation of millions around the world as we worship the 'speck' who is crowned as Lord of Lords and King of Kings!

Encourage everyone you know, to come and do the same!!

May we open our hearts to Him this Christmas; may He find a place in our lives to reign there.

May you and your family know the blessing of God at this time.

Andrew Gardiner

TVB - Report on the week of mission

As many of you will know, the Christian rock band, TVB, were with us for the first week of November.....This exciting group of 9 talented young Christians were selected from 70-80 who applied to spend the year on tour in schools and churches across the UK.

In Plymouth they spent Tuesday to Friday in John Kitto Community College taking assemblies, lessons, lunchtime meetings and performing at a concert on the Thursday night in the school.

Around 150 attended this last event, and many responded to the message to follow Christ.

Over the weekend at the end of their time they attended our 11-14's youth group "the hype" where they performed "unplugged" and encouraged our teenagers to find a personal faith in God.

On the Saturday they ran workshops for dozens of young people from various churches in Plymouth and on the Saturday night held a well-supported concert at Hope. At the end of this event 32 young people came forward for a chat and prayer. All of them are being followed up through the churches they came with, and we have the privilege of starting a discipleship/study group "Pressing On" for those who are serious about a commitment to Christ.

PLEASE PRAY.....

For Steve Champion the youth worker at St Pancras who will be launching follow-up groups for interested teenagers at John Kitto on Tuesday afternoons.

For our own discipleship group - that many will come and really discover a loving God and Saviour that they can put their trust in. This will be run by Rebecca James and Andrew Gardiner with "guest" slots for church members who would like to come and encourage these young people with their own testimonies.

About the future possibilities for our work amongst young people - Missions, Youth Services and "Just Looking" style groups.

Fair Trade

Traidcraft goods are always available from Ann Munson. Cards including Christmas cards are beside the missions' table at the back of the church. There are also sheets there with details of other products that are available. For a catalogue or more information please speak directly to Ann.

Bursting at the seams

As you will know we already run 2 very successful Parent and Toddler Groups each Wednesday. However due to demand we are hoping to start a 3rd session, probably on a Tuesday afternoon.

We already have some of people needed to staff this new group, but we could use an extra person or 2 to help out by generally chatting and mingling with the parents.

If you would like to be involved at all, then please speak to Jenny Saunders. If you cannot help, then please continue to pray for the situation that the right person will come forward as there is currently a very long waiting list and it would be great if we could offer a place to every one who wants one.

More changes for the directory

Tony, Hilary and Abigail Jopson's new phone number is 781792

Treasurer's column

As I approach the final year of my 3-year term of office, I sense that this will be the most challenging year of all of the 11 years that I have served as treasurer. This year has been different to any other year, not least for the calling of an additional minister. 2004 will, I hope, see movement in the direction of the proposed Building Development Project.

As I look back over this year, the encouraging aspect has been the increase in income from the offering, due largely, I believe to a numerically growing fellowship. However when I present the budget for next year, in December, we shall see that unless we have further increase in income we shall not balance the books.

There are a number of ways to achieve a balanced budget: -

- ? ? Reduce our expenditure
- ? ? Ensure efficient giving, gift aided if possible
- ? ? Increase our income.

So how can we achieve one or all of these? Let's take them one at a time:-

- ? ? Be diligent in our administration expenses by not being extravagant with photocopying and supplies. Ask the question, is it needed? Are so many needed?
- ? ? Be prudent in the use of water, gas and electricity. Ask the question, is it needed? Can it be reduced?
- ? ? For those of our fellowship who are new or do not yet use the envelope scheme or give by direct debit, could you please consider giving by either of these methods, which help with our regular giving? If you are a tax-payer please consider gift aiding your money, so that at no extra cost to you the church can reclaim 28p for every £1 given
- ? ? Prayerfully consider sacrificial giving

Peter Brown

Carols at Derriford Hospital

For some years now Churches of Plymouth have joined together to bring something of the spirit of Christmas to those in Derriford Hospital. This year will be no exception – on Thursday 16th December, at 6.45 pm, people from all over Plymouth will gather in the Hospital Chapel on level 7. Last Christmas there must have been about 80 people who split into groups going around the wards singing carols to patients and staff. Some churches came complete with their own choir; others were simply represented by a couple of people from their congregation. It didn't matter- the atmosphere was great! An hour singing soon passed and then it was back to the chapel for mince pies and hot drinks.

Perhaps this Christmas you would like to join in this singing, not only for the fun, but also for the opportunity to share a little of the gospel message of love, care and compassion. If so please see the poster at the back of the church for more details.

Also we have been asked by the Derriford Chaplaincy Team to let them know of any of our congregation that is admitted to Derriford in order that they can arrange a visit by one of their team, or ask them to request a visit from the ward staff. Not only does this raise the profile of the chaplaincy but also encourages the health workers to 'think chaplain'.

Could you be a 'bed-pusher'?

Each week about 30 patients would like to go to the church service in the chapel at Derriford, and Hope has been asked to try and put together a team of people to facilitate this. About ten people would be needed on a Saturday to ask patients on the wards if they would like to attend, and then on the Sunday from 8.30 – 10.30 am about 15 are needed to physically get those patients to the chapel and back again.

Why would we want to do this? Because it is the church getting involved in mission. Our involvement would be on a rota with other churches – about 1 week in 7.

If you think you would be able to help with this then please contact Andy Saunders or Andrew Gardiner.

Prayer focus

People

Give thanks that Graham Dodd has had his operation and is recovering well.

Remember Ron Buchan who has moved into care.

Pray for Doreen Stirling at the sad loss of her husband Jock

Pray for Jean and Brian Potter, also Jean's mother in their bereavement.

Continue to pray for Ron and Jenny Weeks and Nina and her family.

Pray for Kelly as she awaits her operation.

Give thanks that Abelina (an Indian friend of Jenny's) is now safe, continue to pray for God's guidance for her future.

Church

Pray for the deaconate election in January 2004

The two ALPHA courses now come to a close. They have been great groups, pray for the continued spiritual growth of all those involved.

Give thanks for the growth of the Chinese Fellowship and for their new pastor Tin Chung Wong and his wife Carol.

Community

As the festive season approaches pray for the staff, parents and children of Nutkins as they present their Nativity Play on December 2nd.

Pray for those for whom Christmas will be a lonely celebration.

Pray for all the Christmas services.

On Jan 4th other churches will join us for worship in the morning and to pray for the Peverell area in the evening. Pray that the Lord will bless our united outreach in the coming year.

Give thanks for the 80+ young people who responded at the TVB mission and pray for all those involved in their follow up

Sunday Morning Rotas December

Coffee

7th Debbie and Chris Houston

14th Peter Man & Chris Mooney

21st Claire Worrall and Nicky Hatherell

28th Nick Beard and Kate Hatherell

Crèche

7th David and Sandra Brown

14th Toy service – no crèche

21st Anne-Marie Dalton and John Pinch

28th Family service

Flowers

7th Mr Mike Holland and Mrs Win Shelton,

in memory of Mr Charles Shelton

14th Ann Javan, in memory of her parents Roy and Mattie Javan

21st Val and Ray Gee, remembering their very good friends Win and Myra

28th -

Communion

Set-up Wash-up

21st Thelma & Wilfred Smale Pat Taylor and Rebekah Beard

24th Margaret Tripp Sandra Brown

After Church Care - Under 8's only in Thee Bar

7th Louise Sumner & Sandy Lashbrook

14th Toy service

21st Karen Beard and Katherine Gardiner

28th Family Service

The Contents of the Bible, continued. The Old Testament

In Genesis the world was made by God's creative hand,

In Exodus the Hebrews marched to gain the Promised Land

Leviticus explains the Law, holy, just and good

Numbers records the tribes enrolled – all sons of Abraham's blood

Moses in Deuteronomy records God' s mighty deeds.
Brave Joshua into Canaan' s land the lost of Israel leads
In Judges their rebellion oft provoked the Lord to smite
But Ruth records the faith of one well-pleasing in His sight
In first and second Samuel of Jesse' s son we read
Ten tribes in first and second Kings revolted from His seed
Next first and second Chronicles see Judah captive made
But Ezra leads a remnant back by princely Cyrus' aid
The city walls of Zion Nehemia builds again
While Esther saves her people from the plots of wicked men
In Job we read how faith will live beneath afflictions rod
And in the Psalms are precious songs to every child of God
The Proverbs like a goodly string of pearls appear
Ecclesiastes teaches man how vain are all things here
The mystic Song of Solomon exalts sweet Sharon' s rose
Whilst Christ the Saviour and the King the rapt Isaiah shows
The warning Jeremiah apostate Israel scorns
His plaintive Lamentations their awful downfall mourns
Ezekiel tells in wondrous words of dazzling mysteries
And kings and empires yet to come, Daniel in vision sees
Of judgement and of mercy Hosea loves to tell
Joel describes the blessed days when God with man will dwell
Among Tekoa' s herdsmen Amos received his call
And Obadiah prophesies of Edom' s final fall
Jonah enshrines a wondrous type of Christ our risen Lord
Micah pronounces Judah lost – lost but again restored
Nahum declared on Ninevah just judgement shall be poured
A view of Chaldea' s coming doom Habakkuk' s visions give
Next Zephaniah warns the Jews to turn, repent and live
Haggai wrote to those who saw the temple built again
And Zechariah prophesied of Christ' s triumphant reign
Malachi was the last who touched the high prophetic chord
Whose final notes sublimely show the coming of the Lord
Next month – The New Testament

Latest news from Leeds

Nina and Nicolas would like to thank everyone at Hope for their prayers, love, letters and cards that they have received during this difficult time. Nina is making good progress and the chemotherapy is working well to combat the tumours in her breast and liver. Her liver is now functioning normally and she has made a full recovery from the stroke that she suffered in June.

She will be embarking on a course of radiotherapy to combat the new ' spots' that have been discovered in her brain, so she would certainly appreciate your continued prayers, not only for the fight against the original cancers but the battle against the new ones.

Please give thanks for the progress that has been made and for the skills of the oncology team that are treating her. We ask you to pray that the radiotherapy will be successful and that Nina will to continue to respond well to the chemotherapy.

The problems that they have had with child care have been resolved and baby Kate is now attending a day nursery and Jack and Thomas are being cared for by a child-minder after school until Nicolas can collect them when he returns from work.

We are planning to go to Leeds when Nina starts the radiotherapy so we would of course appreciate your prayers for strength and continued good health to enable us to cope with what lies ahead.

Jesus said "you can get anything- anything you ask for in prayer- if you believe". Matthew 21 v22 (The Living Bible)

Ron and Jenny Weeks

December Diary

Tuesday 2 10.00 Mums and Baby Group**

1.30 Prayer Group* venues vary, please ask

Wed 3 10am & 1pm Parent and Toddler Groups *

Thurs 4 10.00 Coffee Morning**

6.30-8.00 H-Y-Powered, years 3-6 *

Fri 5 7.00-8.30 The Hype, youth group, years 7 to 9*

8.15-10.00 Re:Act, youth group, years 10 to 12*

Sun 7 10.00 Prayer in the Lower Guildroom**

10.30 'Living Word' Heb 1, Andy Saunders

Mon 8 12.45 Open House lunch at Plume of Feathers,

Tues 9 7.30 Church members meeting

Wed 10 7.00 Women's Rendezvous Christmas Celebration Men's Group Christmas meal at Drake Manor,

(for more details contact David Brown, 707577 or 07714051979)

Sun 14 10.30 Toy Service, led by children and youth

Mon 15 2.15 Open House Christmas tea

Sun 21 10.30 'Lifting the Humble' Luke 1 v39-46, Andrew Gardiner

6.30 Carols by candlelight, Andy Saunders

Wed 24 11.15pm Midnight communion service, Andrew Gardiner

Thurs 25 10.00 Christmas morning family service – bring an unopened present with you to open during the service

Sun 28 10.30 Family service, Mike Lummis

*These meetings are held weekly during term time only

**These meetings meet weekly all through the year

Fellowship groups now meet on various nights and in different weeks so check with group leaders when yours is meeting.

January 2004

4th 10.30 Joint family service with Pennycross Methodist and St Pancras Churches, at Hope

6.30 Prayer for Peverell, look out for details

21st Men's Group talk by Chris Robinson – 'Pubs' at Hope

BMS Birthday for December 6th Mrs Margaret Tripp

Tea Towels Lynda and Pam thank everyone who kindly brought back a tea towel from their holiday for use in the church kitchen. We now have more than a drawer full of very interesting and useful holiday souvenirs.

Women's Rendezvous

The Christmas Craft Sale was a resounding success. Our thanks to everyone who contributed in any way. We have raised over £300 for CHICKS (Country Holidays for Inner City Kids). We hope that a representative of the charity will be coming to collect the cheque next month.

The variety and amount of goods we were given to sell was overwhelming. Scrumptious cakes, tangy marmalade and jams, jars of sweeties, beautiful handmade Christmas cards and decorations, knitted toys and colourful aprons, oven gloves and tea cosies as well as plants and other items. We had good support from the community with over 80 people coming through the doors and even the Evening Herald sent a reporter to take photos, promising that the sale would be reported in the Herald; the paper did omit to put the venue in our advertisement that appeared in the paper on Thursday so perhaps it was their way of making up for their 'boob'.

Once again a big thank you to everyone who put in so much hard work to make the sale a success.

Thank you

Mum and I and all the family want to thank our friends at Hope for all your help and support following my father's sudden death. Your cards, letters, prayers and good wishes have been great comfort. Special thanks to Andy for conducting the funeral and to those who helped Judith and Jenny on that day. Once again you have demonstrated what the word 'fellowship' means.

G o d b l e s s y o u J e a n

Hello!

I thought I would write a few lines to introduce myself and give you a snapshot of what I am doing within the Church and Community.

My name is Debbie Richards and Hope Baptist Church has recently appointed me as a part-time Children's and Families Worker. I am recently married to Nigel and have two teenage daughters, named Chloe and Emma, a cat called Misty, a dog called Balou, and not forgetting Fudge the rat!

I am a qualified youth worker and nurse and have been a Christian for 8 years. Having felt God's call on my life to serve him in ministry I began serving him as a Schools Worker for CRP. I then moved to Mutley Baptist Church about 3 years ago and took up the post of Senior Youth Worker deputising for the one and only Reverend Andrew Gardiner.

Moving to Hope in September of this year was in response to a gradual realisation that youth work did not only involve young people but families as well! I therefore felt drawn by God to reach out to families within the community, in which I live, and accepted the call by God to serve him at Hope.

My role involves being part of the leadership team of Mother's and Babies, Parents and Toddlers, leading a children's group, Hypowered (ages 7 – 11) on Thursday evenings and Sunday Mornings and acting as a link between the Church and Nutkins Preschool.

Having begun work I realise the immense challenge God has given me to make a difference in the community in which I serve. The mission field is vast and I am excited about the many opportunities God has given me to share his love. Please pray for me in my new role.

Debbie

New Addresses

Please update your directories with the following:

Yvonne, Lorne, Ian, Raquel and Alex Bugden have moved to:

106 Penney Crescent
St. John's, Newfoundland
Canada A1A 5L8
Telephone 709-722-2324

Luisa Davies has moved to:

Flat 2
22 Waterloo St
Greenbank
Plymouth
PL4 8LY

Merry Christmas to all our readers!

This edition of the Outlook was compiled by Nicky Hatherell. January's Outlook will be produced by Claire Worrall who will be grateful for your information and articles as soon as possible please to avoid having to do it a l l o v e r t h e C h r i s t m a s p e r i o d .

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Open House Christmas Tea

You are invited to join us on Monday 15th December at 2.15 for our Christmas get-together. We will be singing a few Carols and would invite you to bring along any Christmassy poems or verse you would like to read to us. There will be sandwiches, cakes and trifle followed by tea or coffee. The suggested donation is £1.50 and that will go will go to a charity to be named on the day.

If you would like a lift to church, please telephone me on 219844 to arrange a pick up time.

Have you booked your Christmas meal at the 'Plume of Feathers' yet? There are booking forms in the November issue of 'Outlook' or at the back of church. THEY MUST BE WITH ME BY SUNDAY 30th November. Thank you.

Pam Smith

Dear friends at Hope Baptist Church

Thank you for your love and prayers for my recovery from bronchitis. Also thank you for the beautiful display of lovely flowers which many admired before I took them to my room. I'm feeling better than I was two weeks ago but still have a cough. I am taking a cough medicine called "Buttercup" that I was advised to take.

God bless you all.

Love from Dorothy Camfield

All Nations Praise and Worship Ministries

"It is the will of God our Father that his people from every tribe, tongue and nation be glad in Him"

Thank you for the help and support you have given us when we came to this country. Thank you also for the prayer and support you have given us in the work God gave us to do.

We would like to thank pastor Andy Saunders, deacons and congregation for the moral support and the assistance they have given us in the last year, especially in relation to the conference last year; many people from other countries were given accommodation, hospitality and help with transport.

Report from Sweden: 29th May - 9th June 2003. In the city of Gothenburg, we really saw God's hand move! Twelve local churches were involved and people came to minister from 50 different countries. One of the teams was from an Arabic country and had been Moslems when they arrived. They heard the gospel and became Christians eventually leading many local Moslems to become Christians too. Twenty-two people came from Plymouth including Andy, Paul Sumner and Pastor David Beresford, from PCC and his wife Jean.

Report from Denmark: 11th - 16th June. Five churches met in a hall, where much time was taken for prayer and intercession for Europe as well as preaching the gospel. We thank God 30 people responded and are followed up by local churches.

Report from Belgium: 18th June - 7th July. We worked with pastors from 10 churches. Initially they struggled to work together due to conflict within the leadership, but we worked with the individual churches and we thank God that eventually they came together and as a result 75 people were baptised. After the conference we came together for communion and to share food.

Report from Holland: 9th - 13th July. We worked in churches, on the street and in a refugee camp, praising, worshipping and preaching. Many responded.

We thank you for praying for us while we were away. We really felt your support for us. We don't have riches to give you, but we know that when Jesus returns, He will reward each one.

May the Lord bless you so much as you continue to support and pray for this work of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Osee Ntavuka

Christmas Cards

Once again we shall be inviting you to give just one card to the fellowship this year instead of a whole fistful of individual cards. This one card can be placed on the board provided for the purpose at the back of the church. The money that you have saved not having to buy so many cards may then be put in the box by the board and will be divided after Christmas between the work of Spurgeon's College and Spurgeon's Childcare (see below)

Spurgeon's College trains students from all over the world, including some from the developing countries, in theology and needs our help to buy equipment which will ensure that these students are 'thoroughly equipped for every good work' 2 Timothy 3:16 Spurgeon's Child Care has been working for children in the UK since 1867. They currently have over 80 projects, from St Andrews, Scotland, to Newport, Isle of Wight, working with children, young people and families and are committed to working in partnership with local authorities, local churches and other groups.

Our Chinese Fellowship

The Chinese Fellowship are delighted to tell us that their new Pastor Tin-Chung Wong and his wife Carol along with their children Adam and Enoch have joined them. Please pray for this family, that they will soon settle into life in Plymouth. Tin-Chung said to pray for the Chinese congregation and for the students that have started to come to their meetings. Also, please remember the boys as they start their new schools; pray that they will be able to make friends easily. We give thanks for our Chinese Fellowship and we want them to be assured of our love and prayers for them all.

Judith Pinch

The Life And Times Of Rebecca James...

My name is Rebecca James and I am 21 1/6 years young! I was born and raised in the bustling metropolis of Plymouth and am currently living with my mum and step-dad in Crownhill. I lived in Peverell for 12 years so I went to Hyde Park Junior School and Devonport High School for Girls. After taking my A levels, I went away to study English and Anthropology (it's not quite as boring as it sounds!) at Swansea university. Although I thoroughly enjoyed my days as a student, I left my friends and lifestyle and moved back home last December after 18 months of study. My reasons for doing this were extremely hard to explain to my friends and family, but I believed that God was calling me to something greater than a life of Anthropology! Walking away from such a significant time of my life was the hardest decision I've ever had to make, but I can clearly see how God has blessed me in so many ways for being obedient to his call. My position at Hope Baptist as Trainee Youth Worker has been the main channel for these blessings. In the capacity of my position here I have become part of the leadership teams for Hy-powered (7-11 year olds) and The Hype (11-14 year olds), as well as being involved in teaching some Year 3 RE lessons at Manadon Vale and, most recently, co-establishing a Youth Alpha group at John Kitto for a number of young people who responded during TVB's visit to the school.

Through each of these aspects of my role, I have witnessed how God is moving among the young people in the area. This has all been very exciting for me so far and I have been truly stunned by how well my role has developed in the past couple of months. I feel extremely settled at Hope and I would very much like to thank everyone for their friendship, support and hospitality so far (with particular thanks for all of the great food that has been generously donated and most gratefully received!).

P r a y e r r e q u e s t s :
Progress and spiritual development of the youth groups within the church.
Direction and support in the TVB follow-up being undertaken with young people from Hope.
God's presence and direction with the Youth Alpha group.
Spiritual guidance in visions for the future.

Crèche

Are you new to Hope, or perhaps been here for years? Are you looking for away that you can serve in the Church?

We are looking for people willing to go onto a rota to help in the crèche on a Sunday morning.

It is a great opportunity for you to get to know the younger members of Hope and their parents. It would only mean committing yourself to being in there around once every eight weeks and if we get enough people then it may be less than that.

You do not have to be a woman, just someone who is prepared to play with the children and the toys! If you are interested, please see me on a Sunday or give me a ring 01752 791993.

I'll look forward to hearing from you!

Katherine Gardiner

Thanks

A letter has been received from Operation Agri thanking us for the sum of £870, which the amount collected in the special envelopes at our Harvest service. They especially thank those of you who were able to gift aid your offering, enabling them to claim back the tax that you would have already paid on that amount