



ANGLICAN RENEWAL MINISTRIES WALES

ADNEWYDDIAD EGLWYSWYR CYMRU

Issue 33 October 2003

Contents

A Vision for the Future..... 2

A Letter from our Chairman Phil Rees..... 4

Pastoral Pleasures by Chris Faull 4

A word that I sensed that God gave me on Thursday August 7th 2003 while at the Flames of
Fire Conference at Builth Wells 6

Renewing Renewal by Chris Webb..... 7

The Llandaff Renewal Team by Amanda Thompson 10

Ffald-y-Brenin by Roy Godwin..... 11

LANGO ORPHANS SCHOLARSHIP TRUST (L.O.S.T.)..... 14

News from our Members 15



A Vision for the Future

Although I have known for some time what I have to write about I find that I cannot easily express it. I sit in awe of God, afraid that whatever I say will appear to criticise other Christians. I think that Bruce Collins touched on the problem in his evening talk at Flames of Fire. God is stopping us in our tracks, serving Him in our own way and in our own strength. When are we going to let Him do what He wants to do and not get in His way?

I am sure that if something really is His way then all who are willing to sit in His presence and listen will receive the same vision. So why is it that sometimes I feel that I am not in tune with others when they say that this or that is God's way or only this or that is in accord with scripture? It shatters my peace and I believe now that God has a purpose in allowing this to happen. It has made me very aware of the conflicts within the Church and particularly within the Anglican Church. Loyal devout members disagree about so many aspects of our church life, and not least about renewal.

Recently I have been looking again at Watchman Nee's book "The Normal Christian Life." When I first read this book the opening chapter left a great impression on me. "What is the normal Christian life? We do well at the outset to ponder this question. The object of these studies is to show that it is something very different from the life of the average Christian. Indeed a consideration of the written Word of God -- of the Sermon on the Mount for example -- should lead us to ask whether such a life has ever in fact been lived upon the earth, save only by the Son of God Himself. But in that last saving clause lies immediately the answer to our question.

"The Apostle Paul gives us his own definition of the Christian life in Galatians 2:20. It is "no longer I, but Christ". Here he is not stating something special or peculiar -- a high level of Christianity. He is, we believe, presenting God's normal for a Christian, which can be summarized in the words: I live no longer, but Christ lives His life in me....."

Do we believe that? When negative feelings surface within me I know that I am denying this great truth and I need to let God do something about it. But I am sure that I am not alone in this or we would not have so much disagreement -- so many interpretations.

So what is Renewal and what are we in ARM(Wales) about? We have to look at the need for a new chairman in November. We are grateful to Phil Rees for leading us for the last five years, he has taken us forward to a sound base for Flames of Fire. It will now move forward under the leadership of Nick Jones and is better equipped to involve input from those of other denominations. So what do we want of the next Chairman of ARM (Wales)? Some may even say cynically, "Is there anything else to do?" For many ARM (Wales) only does Flames of Fire.

All material is copyright of its creator and permission must be sought before it is reproduced. Please use the "Contact Us" page on our website www.anglicanrenewalministries-wales.org.uk in order to gain such permission.



Chris Webb has written us an article, Renewing Renewal. Does that stimulate us or lead us to question whether we have the same view of Renewal as the Church in Wales and more importantly what does God want anyway? I refer you to our statement inside the back cover - when did you last read it? The web page also carries an article on renewal but we may not be giving sufficient emphasis to the fact that we believe it is the Holy Spirit Himself that communicates the will of God to us, and that we can be aware of His presence within us.

Romans 12:2 says "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will."

So are we willing to surrender our minds to the Holy Spirit and give up trying to work out and do what we think is best? It has to take us back into Galatians 2:20 and our need to believe it. If we are in Christ then we were crucified when He was crucified, it is not something that has happened in our sufferings, no matter what they have been. But as we go through life we need to feel different aspects of suffering and strangely He uses it. But the best bit is that we are alive in Him and He lives in us. First we must believe it and then let Christ grow in us. Another, "Yes, but how?"

Only by spending more time in His presence, without offering requests or advice, just silent love and adoration, we come to praise Him and let Him have His way. That will start the changing process, that will start Renewal. We need the stillness within and we need to constantly walk in that peace that is so easily shattered by our disagreement. What happens next depends on our willingness to listen to the Holy Spirit and obey Him. I know this is not easy and I know I fail but I become very aware that I have failed when I do get back on the right wavelength. I am sorry that I offend others when I push on without considering them and their other responsibilities but I really believe we must spend time together in silence to discover God's will for ARM (Wales). He is longing for us to come to Him as one, for He has a new vision for us and already has anointed a leader to take us forward. So are we ready and willing to show the Church in Wales what Charismatic Renewal really is?

Also in this issue we have some reports of Flames of Fire and from members telling us of their work in Wales, Birmingham and Africa.

Mary Newsom



A Letter from our Chairman Phil Rees

Dear Friends,

My final magazine note as Chairman of ARM(Wales) is quite personal!

I want to say, "Thank you" to all our friends and supporters for the prayer and encouragement of the last seven years. In 1996 Kate and I were at the end of a piece of work in London and none of the avenues open to us for the next phase seemed right. Then "out of the blue" came a 'phone call from Geoff Waggett to say, "Come back to Wales". We did, and in the Autumn I joined the executive of ARM. Two years later you felt I was right for the position of next Chairman. I took the place with some hesitancy but quite sure that I had to do the job.

I had a quiet conviction that within three years we could be solvent and establish a larger dedicated team. Actually the Lord so blessed that we were financially "out of the woods" in eighteen months, and able to repay our loans.

As the last five years have passed the Flames of Fire Conference has taken more and more of our attention and time, and I'm sure it has a great future, under Nick Jones' leadership, and with the new offices at Pencoed working with volunteers (initially) for most of the year. That means that the Executive can focus much more on its original mandate of promoting renewal in Wales and taking necessary initiatives. Please pray for the right person to be elected as Chairman at the AGM next month, or soon afterwards.

And so I conclude by again saying "Thank you" to you all, and especially to the Lord.

Yours, Phil

Pastoral Pleasures by Chris Faull

"Come to me all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me..... for my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28,29)

People come to conferences across the country, and beyond, I guess, for a whole variety of reasons. They may come because they have been before and enjoy the fellowship, the worship, the seminars and the general hub-bub that makes for a great gathering. Maybe it is because they know certain speakers will be speaking God's word and they are assured of good teaching from a familiar and well-grounded source. Maybe they have come at the invitation of a friend who has been before and has enthused them to come along as well. Maybe they have come because they have felt a specific call from God, to be there.

All material is copyright of its creator and permission must be sought before it is reproduced. Please use the "Contact Us" page on our website www.anglicanrenewalministries-wales.org.uk in order to gain such permission.



And Flames of Fire is no different - Praise God! For it is the variety that gives the conference a certain special atmosphere as everyone is included in the family feel. They live cheek by jowl on the camp-site, in the hotel or even in the surrounding area in bed & breakfast, enjoying getting together over coffee at the Traid Craft stand, having meals in the restaurant or just relaxing in the glorious Welsh sunshine. They sing their praises to God with great gusto - or in a quieter meditative manner. They hear inspiring and often very challenging addresses. They go forward for prayer for all sorts of reasons, not least of which is their desire to have more and more of God's love and Holy Spirit..... and yet.....

Many will have brought a lot of baggage with them from their home situations, sometimes knowingly, sometimes unaware until a trigger sets off a whole range of thoughts, memories, needs, fears, concerns which rise to the surface and are, perhaps needing more than a brief time of prayer at the front after the celebration or the morning Bible study session..... and that is where the Pastoral Team comes in.

This year the team has comprised a main core of eight people with another seven or eight coming in on a less frequent basis. All are dedicated to offering some of their time at the conference to be available to lend a sympathetic and listening ear to those who feel the need to receive deeper ministry in a quiet setting.

We have a short meeting each morning before the main activities start, so that we can support and encourage one another, find out what needs there may be for the day ahead, share a word from scripture, share testimony as to what God has been doing and pray for one another for the day's schedule. We operate in pairs, as far as is possible, usually one man and one woman, but sometimes two women will be together for various reasons. We have a code of practice which entails complete confidentiality within the law and great discretion is exercised, even within the team, as what passes between team members and those they pastor is known only to them and God, unless permission has been given by the one pastored to pass something up the line for more informed care.

At the beginning of the week, as Team Leader, I am always concerned that we will not have enough people in the team to cope with the seemingly hordes of potential clients but, every year, the Lord has been gracious. We have always had sufficient pastors and venues to meet the needs, even to the last day this year when we had one slot left in case of an emergency - and even that did not arise. The number who came for time with the team was in fact the highest yet over the past few years and the reasons they came has been just as varied as ever. I think it is fair to say that the vast majority leave having met with God in a real way, though a few have still needed more than a single session can achieve for them. Where appropriate we recommend that they make contact with facilities in their home areas.

I can say without hesitation that it is a privilege to have led the team over the past few years. They are all so willing to give of their time, though I do try to accommodate them if there is a particular seminar or other activity they want to attend. I always say to them that they are here to enjoy the week and part of that enjoyment is to see God's hand touching people where they

All material is copyright of its creator and permission must be sought before it is reproduced. Please use the "Contact Us" page on our website www.anglicanrenewalministries-wales.org.uk in order to gain such permission.



hurt and ministering to their needs in such a wonderful way. Occasionally we have even suggested that those who have had a healing touch should report it to the conference from the platform and THAT is something really special.

This year has been a real joy and I believe 2004 will be equally so. The team must enjoy what they do or they would not keep coming back for more!! God is gracious - Praise His Name.

A word that I sensed that God gave me on Thursday August 7th 2003 while at the Flames of Fire Conference at Builth Wells:

Do not fear the wilderness —
The wilderness of your own heart
Or the wilderness of other peoples' lives,
The darkness, despair, fear, nothingness
The unloved-ness. the abuse, the sin.

It was to the wilderness
That the Spirit of my Father drove me;
It was in the wilderness
That I faced Satan
As he stretched my innermost being,
As he sought to erode the foundations of my life,
It was in the wilderness
That my Father's word gave me victory,
Holding me in his love,
And conferring upon me
Spirit-authority and power
To minister his healing and forgiveness:
And it was through the wilderness of death
That I and my Father
Healed the broken-ness of the world.

It is the wilderness
That I make to blossom and flourish
As the river of life, flowing from the Father's heart,
Begins to flow
In those who open their wilderness to me.

Do not fear the wilderness
It is the gateway to life.

N.G.C.

All material is copyright of its creator and permission must be sought before it is reproduced. Please use the "Contact Us" page on our website www.anglicanrenewalministries-wales.org.uk in order to gain such permission.



Renewing Renewal by Chris Webb

(Chris is national Renewal Officer in the Council for Mission and Ministry)

Becoming fire

There's a beautiful story in the tales of the desert fathers and mothers, the wonderful men and women of God who lived in solitude and prayer on the wilderness extremities of the Nile valley during in the early centuries of church history. One of these men, Lot, went to seek guidance from his elder and mentor, Joseph of Panephysis. Lot was troubled that all his devout and sincere attempts to grow in the spiritual life weren't enough to bring him into the close relationship with God he so desired. "As far as I'm able, I say my daily prayers, I fast a little, I meditate," he explained to his wise father in the faith, "I live in peace with others, and as much as I can I keep my thoughts pure. What else can I do?" Joseph said nothing for a few moments, then slowly stood up and stretched his hands up to heaven. To Lot's amazement, Joseph's fingers began burn like the wicks in an oil lamp. Joseph looked him straight in the eye and said, "Lot, if you want to, you can become all fire!"

It's a story that could describe the charismatic renewal movement at its very best. Joseph burned with a passion for God that came straight from his immersion in the life of the Spirit. He recognised in Lot a devotion to God which he longed to nurture and encourage, but also recognised that Lot's efforts to love God needed to be overwhelmed by the fire of the Spirit, needed to be consumed and completed by the wild and restless love of God. The charismatic movement has brought so much to the life of the church - a fresh appreciation of the Spirit's action in the church and the believer, a renewed understanding of spiritual gifts, a lively spontaneity in worship. But perhaps more importantly than all this, the charismatic movement has given the whole church a radical new openness to God at work, directly and intimately, in our lives, and a willingness to respond to this ardently and passionately. We have learned once more to become "all fire".

So much has charismatic renewal brought to the whole church over the last few decades. But what lies ahead? More of the same? Perhaps, in some places. It's the sad fate of any movement that some folks in some places will pickle and preserve the initial vision to carry it safely through the generations, handing on the dead husk of a once living tradition. But 'more of the same' doesn't seem to feature in God's vocabulary, he seems to prefer the words, 'see, I am making all things new'. So my guess is that wherever charismatic renewal continues to trim its sails to the gracious wind of the Spirit, we'll keep seeing new gifts, new understandings, new life, and an ever new passion and fire. As time passes, renewal itself will be renewed. What might that look like? For what it's worth, here are a couple of my guesses.

Church for beginners



David Hay, a researcher at Nottingham University, recently published work he had done interviewing people who didn't go to church, about their spirituality. It was revealing and moving to see quite how rich and deep their spiritual lives were in every case, and how often they connected their spirituality with church, especially the experience of being in our buildings. But one theme emerged again and again: the church community is designed for insiders, and is both hard to relate to and hard to break into - and there's not much incentive to do either. As one woman expressed it, "They should do church for beginners, for people like me."

Looking from this angle at charismatic renewal, we see the strangest contradictions. On the one hand, renewed churches often have a burning commitment to sharing the faith - we're right there in the front line with Alpha courses, seeker-friendly services, welcome teams and training in evangelism. On the other hand, we often seem blind to the customs, jargon and behaviour that can exclude, alienate and - let's face it - bemuse. We live in a culture in which simple things like group singing, or adults listening to a book being read aloud, are strange behaviours. 'Passing the peace' is neither a meaningful concept nor a comfortable one if it turns out to be a massive group hug. When we say 'God is releasing prophetic giftings across the land in this generation' they don't know that what we really mean is 'God is enabling people to speak his message here in Wales right now'. Does renewal have to mean speaking in tongues even when you're speaking English?

A renewed renewal would think again about what people experience when they come into church, and how much of it is habit or weirdness rather than an essential expression of the Spirit. But perhaps more, a renewed renewal would address with more urgency how people can experience the life of Christ in the Spirit without coming to 'church' at all; how, by discovering Jesus in new contexts, they can find new expressions of Christian community, 'church for beginners'. The passion for evangelism would translate more and more into a sacrificial willingness to follow the example of Abraham - leave the home comforts of church life, and journey to a new and unknown land, risking everything to follow the promise of the God who goes before us.

Spiritual horticulture

Every time I wonder whether there's anything more that can possibly be said about the spiritual gifts, I visit a Christian bookshop to reassure myself that there is. 'Of the writing of books there is no end,' wrote the Preacher in Ecclesiastes, in a clear prophetic reference to the renewal movement publishing industry. One of my favourite titles at the moment is G-Force: Taking Your Relationship with God to a New Level - I've not read the book, but the title conjures up wonderful memories of a childhood cartoon show, and the author has the irresistibly implausible name of Bo Boshers. Another book, Developing Your Prophetic Gifting by Graham Cooke, promises "the joy of birthing a new prophetic environment throughout the whole Body of Christ." Frankly, birthing anything throughout a body suggests that gruesome 'emerging from the stomach' scene in Alien more than a spiritually uplifting experience.



Fortunately, we're seeing strong signs of a renewed renewal that is placing a little less of the spotlight on the glitzy and glamorous gifts of the Spirit, and a little more on the rather more plain but nutritious fruit of the Spirit. The charismatic renewal, in its early days, seemed intoxicated with the power of the Spirit, some of the emphasis on power became a little disturbing. One friend of mine, after reading John Wimber's *Power Evangelism and Power Healing* offered to start the 'Movement for the Propagation of the Weakness Gospel' to remind people that folks who are called to be slaves of all and lay down their lives in service of a crucified God might want to go easy on the whole 'power' trip.

That emphasis has been shifting for some time. We've always known the importance of nurturing a strong life of prayer and service, of allowing the character of Christ to be shaped in us by the Spirit, of a steady walk on the long road of faith. A renewed renewal is increasingly discovering the proper place of the spiritual gifts in the wider life of the Christian and the church. Healing, prophecy, spiritual wisdom – these are always welcome, but are always at the service of the more central aim of the Spirit: making people and communities that reflect the grace and life of Jesus. As Paul reminds us, the gifts are great but they will do their job and pass on – in comparison with being like Jesus they are very much in second place. This nurturing and growing of the fruit – spiritual horticulture – is every bit as much a miraculous, supernatural work of the Spirit as astounding healings and insightful prophecies, and we are rightly learning to value and emphasise it in our teaching and our lives.

A New Vision?

Is this really a new vision of renewal? Of course not. Right back in Acts 2 we read about the church in its earliest days who were "faithful to the teaching of the apostles, the common life of sharing, the breaking of bread and the prayers," and that "every day the Lord added to their number". Our vision for sharing faith and nurturing faith is as old as the hills. But it is a vision that has to be constantly refreshed and revisited as our society and culture changes, and as we learn more together about life in the Spirit. Should I long for the spiritual gifts, for words of wisdom and knowledge, for gifts of healing? Of course. Should I long for the renewal of worship, for new songs and an open spontaneity in prayer? I'm sure I should. Should I long for the birthing of prophetic giftings in this land for this generation? Well ... maybe! But above all this, long for God. This is the hallmark of charismatic renewal at its best, it's greatest gift to the church, and the key to a renewal that is open to being renewed. Never forget: if you want to, you can become all fire!



The Llandaff Renewal Team by Amanda Thompson

In 1983 the Bishop of Llandaff, John Poole-Hughes, set up a team of people in his diocese to look at Renewing the church. The team consisted of a dozen people with Mr Bernard Davies of Christchurch, Cardiff as its Chairman. Over the years members of the team have come and gone, and there have been many ups and downs, but now twenty years on, it is still offering events. Three times a year we organise a Renewal Day in a church sympathetic to Renewal, where there is a speaker, worship and prayer ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit. Every month there is a clergy support group to encourage clergy involved in Charismatic Renewal in their parishes. We also oversee a lay support group, and run worship evenings in parishes around the Diocese.

Two years ago, while praying for the team I had a picture. It was very clear; I was writing an invitation to a past member of the team inviting him to a special celebration. The invitation was like a wedding invitation; smart white card with a gold trim, and under the name it said 'your presence is urgently required at...' This obviously led to a number of questions:

- § What was I inviting people to?
- § Why was I inviting him?
- § Who else was I inviting?
- § What was the urgency?
- § When and where would it be?
- § What are you asking me to do, Lord?

When I mentioned the picture to others they were rather bemused, so I set about bothering God for the answers. Over the next few months things slowly became clear. It was about the Renewal Team, it was about all the members of the Renewal Team there had ever been, past and present, and members of Clergy Support. As the man I was writing to in my picture now works in a parish across the border I knew I was to invite those no longer in the Diocese. It included those who were no longer involved with Charismatic Renewal. It was to be a thanksgiving for everything God had done through the team in the past, the present and what he would do in the future. So why the urgency? I think that was God's joke on me! He knew I could take years to sort a picture out and finally do something about it. It was to speed me up!

All the same, it was a year later that I presented the picture and my understanding of it to the Renewal Team, and instead of bemusement I was met with enthusiasm. After they had prayed

All material is copyright of its creator and permission must be sought before it is reproduced. Please use the "Contact Us" page on our website www.anglicanrenewalministries-wales.org.uk in order to gain such permission.



about it, Team members started talking of Wedding Feasts and banquets. Someone said that next year would be our twentieth anniversary so I was given the go-ahead to organise a wedding type feast, for all past and present members of the team, clergy support, and their spouses and I was given some possible dates and a venue.

Now I would never claim to be an organiser, I see myself more as an encourager, but it was as if God had it all planned out ready. St. Mark's Gabalfa, Cardiff was available on July 4th, the date we chose. Archbishop Barry was available that evening and agreed to celebrate the Eucharist and preach for us. We asked Bishop Graham Chadwick, who had visited the Diocese and worked closely with the team in the 80's, if he would be our after dinner speaker. He declined the offer by letter, but the very day we received the letter he phoned us to say God had been bothering him non-stop since he sent the letter and that he had changed his mind and would come! It was also a great joy to us that the first Chairman of the committee was able to be there as well and enjoy the festivities.

Catering for the event looked like it could be a problem. I was allowed £5 a head for the food, but for that money the catering companies in Cardiff could only offer sandwiches and sausage rolls, nothing very special. When the ladies who organise our church's Alpha suppers heard of my difficulty they volunteered to do the catering. With the money we had a three-course meal with coffee and mints to finish and table service. They decorated the Hall with pale blue flowers, the tables with blue cloths and napkins and made it a real Banquet.

As you can imagine the evening was a great success, I believe because God was there behind it all. Although a few guests were unable to come because of other commitments or ill health, we had nearly sixty guests. The worship in church was beautiful and Spirit led, the Archbishop talked to us about thankfulness and the Wedding at Cana and led us in the Eucharist. The food was a feast and Bishop Graham obviously enjoyed himself and inspired us with his speech. Everyone had a good time and we had many letters of thanks afterwards.

So what now? I'm not sure, but the unity and agreement we felt amongst us that evening is something the team intend to build on. God knows what he has planned for the future, and we are all looking forward to finding out what it is!

Ffald-y-Brenin by Roy Godwin

Angelic visitation. Changed lives. I am pleased to report that something wonderful is currently happening here at Ffald-y-Brenin Christian Retreat Centre.

- As a leader prays for a few minutes before breakfast an angel appears in the room and the voice of God is heard. She calls her team together and an amazing depth of healing and cleansing takes place. This continues until Midnight.

All material is copyright of its creator and permission must be sought before it is reproduced. Please use the "Contact Us" page on our website www.anglicanrenewalministries-wales.org.uk in order to gain such permission.



- Bonfires are lit before the High Cross in the grounds as people physically surrender things to Jesus. Dustbin bags have to be used to remove the excess rubbish.
- Children agree to come on a Church Weekend as long as it's a secret and their friends don't find out. Suddenly they are filled with the Holy Spirit and speak in new tongues as Jesus appears to them. They go to school and ask the Head for permission to start a school prayer meeting, and start to witness enthusiastically to their friends.

Ffald-y-Brenin (The Sheepfold of the King) is an award-winning Retreat Centre set in the hills by the sea in North Pembrokeshire. Started about 18 years ago, my wife and I arrived to lead the work in 1999. We hadn't expected or wanted to come here, but God made it very plain that this was where He was placing us, and from the moment we said "yes" the doors of heaven seemed to open upon us. This was truly amazing grace because we were not coming from a place of success but from a seemingly inauspicious place of brokenness and pain.

Our brief was to develop the vision and build a new team. We sensed that we were to pray here specifically for a sense of His manifest presence, a release of joy as well as peace, and to become a House of Prayer for all nations. Well-meaning Christians informed us that there was a very simple method for establishing a House of Prayer but we preferred to ask God to reveal His unique plan for us.

Since we believe that we must model God's purposes before seeking to draw anyone else into them, our first goal was to seek to live out what we were praying for. We had to become people of prayer and soak Ffald-y-Brenin in God's presence. Again we came to God in weakness and asked Him to teach and lead us. This led to a different form of prayer for the land and buildings that brought an immediate release and fruit. Later, when we raised a High Cross on our promontory in response to revelation it too seemed to release something.

The sense of God's presence began to increase.

- A carload of guests, swapping jokes as they approach our drive, suddenly have to pull off the road because the Holy Spirit falls on them.
- Two atheists in their 20's (visiting with Christian friends) discover they are lost as the God they don't believe in reveals Himself to them. As they respond they are filled with the Spirit and the joy of the Lord floods their hearts; they shout praises until the early hours.
- A Church leaders' weekend retreat – Saturday is listed as a free day, but they pray before breakfast. The glory of God appears and they don't get their breakfast – or their lunch, or their tea. So they decide that the next day will be their free day. But the same thing happens again.



Non-Christian groups started to call and ask whether we would pray for them and bless them if they came and visited for an hour or so. But we wanted more and asked for it; soon, walkers on the local footpaths started coming to find us to ask why something strange but very good had happened to them when they walked near our boundary. This now happens regularly, and we get to witness and pray with them all.

Guests started to experience deep healing without human intervention.

A broken man who has been unable to smile for 15 months has to be helped from the foot of the cross to his car because Jesus has met him, healed his broken heart and filled him with so much joy that he is paralytic with laughter.

Guests describe the air here as “being saturated with healing”.

Meanwhile, as we were still asking what it means to be a House of Prayer for all nations, we sensed God directing us to be a place where English- and Welsh- speaking Christians would be equally at home. As usual, as soon as we heard His voice it began to happen, and it's wonderful to be in a prayer or worship setting where both languages intermix.

We seek God and then invite a few people to make a daily commitment, as we have, to pray for their area and for Wales as a nation using a common framework that we call The Caleb Prayer for Wales. We start with 30 people, but with no advertising or publicity material this now numbers thousands of people in many nations.

Local radio approaches and asks permission to broadcast the prayer twice a day in English and Welsh.

As we looked for a model that could help us understand what God was doing here, we were impacted by some of the values of historic Celtic Monastic Christianity. A sense of place and presence were paramount. Rhythm in worship and prayer; rhythm in planning time. Walking in the Holy Spirit and seeing fruit and gifts at work. Simplicity, compassion for the poor, hospitality, meaning we now offer part-or-full board for groups as well as self-catering. 'People come before projects' so casual visitors are welcomed, given a cup of tea, a tour and are blessed in prayer. We have established a team of local people who work here. Others are being drawn towards the rhythm of our lifestyle in an extended relationship.

Individuals and Church groups come to this quiet, remote place to be apart, to rest, to recover and to seek God.

Please come and visit us yourself; call 01348 881382 for information or visit our web-site.



LANGO ORPHANS SCHOLARSHIP TRUST (L.O.S.T.)

It was from the ARM(Wales) Conference in 1994 that six delegates were sent to be a SOMA team in Northern Uganda. In 1996 another team was sent to this troubled area. The war in N. Uganda has been going on now for 17 years and the last twelve months have been the worst. There are now 1,000,000 displaced people, without means of support, in the area. This year alone over 10,000 children have been abducted by the cruel (LRA) rebel army.

This humanitarian disaster goes largely unnoticed by the press and media, but not by God. Through the work of LOST, orphans are supported, there is a nursery school, and a primary school is being built. Here is a progress report from Charles Owens the Project Coordinator, on the work done since our last magazine.

MYNYDD BACH PRIMARY SCHOOL, LIRA, UGANDA

By the time that you read this short report, I will be on my first visit to the site since work began back in July. As stated in the last report, due to the generosity of the many that have sent us gifts, we made an early start on construction.

Despite the unexpected heavy rain over the last three months, good progress has been achieved. The foundations to floor level are now completed and the concrete floor slab has been laid to over 50% of the building. Mains water has been laid and connected onto site.

The brick making is in full production with around 40,000 bricks in stock. The rain hampers our brick baking and temporary sheds have had to be constructed. We are now arranging to transport our stock to site for the next stage to build the walls up to roof level.

We are very fortunate in having a sound leader in Jimmy, an experienced brick maker, who along with our four apprenticed boys are producing 1,000 bricks per day. At the busiest time over the last three months, under the supervision of our site engineer Denis, we employed 40 workmen on site, mostly from the displaced people that are in Lira at this time, and besides paying them each day we also gave them a free midday meal.

Drawings have now been sent to the Authorities for approval for the clinic that is planned for the school site. Besides the school, this will serve a much-needed local community.

I am overwhelmed by what has been done; what has been achieved in just three months through the loving support of all that have joined us in this vision. Thank you for your gifts and encouragement. Thanks be to God our faithful provider.



News from our Members

Five regular Youth Delegates at Flames of Fire packed their tents once again in August and headed not to BUILT but to Manchester, here is their account of what took place.

Festival:Manchester, on the streets, in the park = evangelising with a difference!

Give up a week of your holidays to live in a tent in the middle of Manchester, be freezing cold at night, with portaloos and portacabin showers as the height of luxury and pay to be allowed to clear alleys, people's gardens and other people's mess (in the rain!). You must be mad! But this is what over 5,000 young people did this summer between August 25th-31st.

Festival:Manchester was a week long Christian mission in Manchester run by "The Message 2000 trust", an organisation with a heart for Jesus to be active and seen in the streets of Manchester. A similar mission was held in 2000, which led to a drop in crime in the city and meant that Festival:Manchester was not only supported by over 500 partner churches in and around Manchester, but the Festival also worked in co-operation with the Greater Manchester Police.

The Festival during the week "on the streets" (Tuesday to Friday) was run over three 'Hotzones' around the city; one in the Apollo Theatre, one in Broadhurst Park and the other in Peel Park. The day would start with the mass transportation of 5,000 people from Heaton Park (or Tent City as it was known) to these Hotzones. The morning was taken up by a session comprising of worship and talks where we could meet with God and be fired up by Him in order to take His love onto the streets. We were in the North Red Hotzone along with about 1,500 others, we were very blessed by our worship bands, and inspirational speakers such as Andy Hawthorne, even the world famous Luis Palau.

After spending the morning in worship to God, the afternoon brought the opportunity to go out to work and witness for Him, in a practical way through the 'Projects'. These projects involved all sorts of different social action work to show God's work in a practical, caring way. This social action work could mean a lot of different things, my group, host 00406, did things like clear alleyways, paint houses and clear gardens (even though you might mistake them for jungles!).

Others worked with the Police doing things like clearing canals and their towpaths, places notorious for crime, some ran kid's clubs or helped at youth cafés, one group even helped to lay a football pitch! Through doing such things we as Christians showed local people a different attitude to life, especially as young people who they would have expected to be causing the problems rather than helping to solve them.



Because of this (and the fact there were hundreds of people wondering around in white t-shirts with Festival:Manchester on!) we caused quite a bit of interest from local people and hence had the opportunity to tell them it was God we are working for and explain a bit about our faith (as well as being given much appreciated hot drinks!). But it wasn't just a case of tell them and leave them, every evening there was a concert that all local people were invited to.

From 7.30 every night there was a free concert that included big Christian bands like "thebandwithnoname", "Phat Fish", "Steve", "MIC", "29th Chapter" and Manchester's very own "The Tribe". In these sessions there was also some Christian teaching, which on the first night alone in our Hotzone led to 53 young people giving their lives to Christ.

As Friday came to a close we saw the end of the 'Hotzones' and the social action projects, but the "in the park" weekend was about to begin. This "in the park" part of the festival consisted of a huge free event in Heaton Park with a skate park with the world's 2nd and 3rd top skaters doing demonstrations, a kids zone with bouncy castle and activities, as well as a huge main stage (the one used at Glastonbury), which attracted between about 25-30,000 people on both days.

Saturday saw bands that had featured during the week like the "Tribe" and "thebandwithnoname" taking to that stage as well as the Christian stars such as TAIT and Toby Mac, both of DC Talk who wowed the audience with some of their classic tracks like 'Jesus Freak'. I must admit it is an awesome sight seeing tens of thousands of people jumping up and down in praise of God. Luis Palau also talked with the result of hundreds of people coming to Christ. The evening finished with a massive fireworks display.

The Festival was also held on the Sunday with more bands, another talk by Luis and even a guest appearance from Cameron from Big Brother. The whole event finished with a praise session led by Tim Hughes. The sound of thousands of voices and hands lifted in praise to Jesus was breathtaking, and the presence of the Lord so strongly felt there by all.

The Festival:Manchester experience was something totally amazing, with God working so powerfully to change people's lives and points of views. Well over a thousand people became Christians in the week and the good work started by all these young people will be carried on by the Eden project. God calls us to mission every day of our lives and in everything we do we show his love, and we never know the impact it may have on someone's life.

Julia Baker, Elen Griffith, Angie Hardie, Catherine Hardie and Cheryl Rowlands.