

intouch



Inside the Rio Olympics

Christians in Sport page 11

Apologies for having another sporting theme on the cover of this month's magazine. As the Brownlee brothers raced past South Parade on the day the last issue was published, it felt (for about 15 seconds) that we were at the centre of the sporting world. For the next two weeks all eyes will be on Brazil. When I read the interview with Olympian, IOC member and Christian Adam Pengilly on the Christians in Sport website I wanted to include the piece in the magazine and asked their permission to share it here. It reminds us to pray for Christians involved in big events like this. If you've read something inspiring in a Christian magazine or website, let me know on the email address below and we'll try to include it in a future edition.

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Matthew Newman Editor

Informed, Involved, Inspired... Intouch!

Contributions to: magazine@spbc.org.uk or to the church office

Deadline for contributions: 16 September 2016

Next edition published: 2 October 2016

From the Ministry Team

Making the Connection

The editor said I could write 600 words on any topic I wanted. So here goes!

Spirituality

Some people spend a lifetime writing about this but we'll tackle it this way.

Definition

Three words: Search, Activity, Connection. What actions do you take in your search for a proper connection with God?

Context

I recently read an article that was commenting on the effectiveness of Alpha as an evangelistic tool (its

conclusion was that while it has faults it also has its strengths and is a very useful tool that helps us reach out to our friends and neighbours with the Good News).

As a side issue, the article commented on the different "spiritualities" of churches that might use Alpha and that Alpha itself has a "spirituality". This the article warned can be a source of conflict, as what most people fall out over in churches is the way we cultivate our connection with God!

Does this mean there can be different ways in which we can search for a proper connection with God (I'm thinking of within the Christian tradition) and where do they come from?

- Your family
- The first church you attended
- The context in which you were converted
- A significant event/conference
- Your current friendship group

The point that came over to me was that while my "access" to God



is through Jesus Christ what is my take of how I pursue that? Is this the question I need to answer regarding spirituality?

Chew it over

What route are you taking (if you have one!)? Where did you get it from? Is it good enough? How do you check it out? (273 words so far)

This really is a big question, and how you answer it should be shaped by the view you have of God's activities in the world and how you fit into that. To just slip into the coat that is handed to you and let that determine your spirituality may not be good enough.

My experience

Always dangerous! I'll comment on one small area of my "walk" which doesn't properly cover the idea of spirituality.

My tradition includes the importance of having time **with** God, but over the years this has been dominated by "banking" information **about** God, so how

*I choose my favourite place
in the house and set out to
have some time with God...
no strings attached*

much of the Bible and how systematically I read the Bible is at the forefront. I've done it but not always enjoyed it. Of late I've taken another tack.



I now choose my favourite place in the house (if it's not occupied) and set out to have some time with God... no strings attached.

Currently this includes using some traditional and contemporary words that describe who God is so that I focus on Him. Reading something that stretches my understanding of what God is saying in the Bible. Prayer; using a list to help look outside myself, and with my diary/phone, being honest with God over how I feel about the day/week ahead. As with all the people who are important to me I try to give time, but who am I giving the time to?

What I'm driving at is how do I chose and shape the actions I take to ensure I have a proper connection with God? Can I modify them if I need to?

All complaints about this article to Paul Rockley, South Parade Baptist Church, Leeds.

563 words!

Geoff

Around the Church

Summer at Headingley Leeds Triathlon

The last *Intouch* was published on the same day as the International Triathlon took place. Headingley Mission Community decided to hold a cafe church style event on that day and, although the crowds and disruption didn't match predictions reported in the media, it was felt to have been a successful exercise. The stewards certainly appreciated the availability of refreshments, a chance to sit down and toilets.



There was plenty of opportunity to chat to locals, passers by and each other. Matthew and Sarah's music was a definite bonus. Leeds has been confirmed on the International Triathlon calendar for 10-11 June 2017, so we'll be keeping a close eye on developments nearer the time. If the route comes past South Parade it would be an ideal opportunity to build on this year's event.

It's Your Move

Heather organised another of the events for local schools that punctuate our year, with Rewind to Christmas, Rewind to Easter followed by It's Your Move on 23-

24 June. Friday saw the largest number of pupils attend an

event in one time at South Parade. The theme is to encourage the children in their transition from primary to secondary school, but also brings to their attention the Christian reliance on God in a much wider spectrum of circumstances.

As ever, feedback from the accompanying teaching staff was very positive and full of praise for

It's Your Move encourages children in their transition to secondary school, but also brings to their attention the Christian reliance on God

how the event was executed, with the range of activities to engage the children, included giant snakes and ladders!

Summer Picnic

Following on from the success of the bring and share lunch reported in the last *Intouch*, the now annual picnic took place on 3 July. The sun shone, cricket was played, conversation flowed and Scott Halligan waxed lyrical about bread with olives actually baked in it – brilliant!

Crèche volunteers please

Chris Whitman has issued a plea for volunteers to help out with crèche on a Sunday morning. If the number of helpers remains as it is, from September one week out of four will be unstaffed. Support for children's activities is traditionally borderline minimum right across the wider church spectrum. Please consider how you could help out and contact Heather, Chris or Greg.

Richard Sykes

Headingley MC Leadership Team



Summer with Headingley Mission Community



Sent Lounge

In June regulars from the Sent Mission Community had an opportunity to experience Chinese dumpling making at June's eagerly anticipated Sent Lounge.

Led by five accomplished experts from China, we rolled out the dough, stuffed the fillings inside and pinched them together, before sending them into the kitchen for

*We pray that Sent Lounge
will act as a doorway
to bring more people into
the church community*

boiling or frying. The end result was delicious and we enjoyed the fruits of our labour until late into the evening.

It was nice to turn our attention away from the referendum and football for an evening of cooking and chatting. We were delighted that a couple of members felt able to bring friends along to an enjoyable and non-threatening social event. We pray that Sent Lounge will act as a doorway to bring more people into the church community.

Philip Chow

Sent Mission Community

TLG News

This year TLG has been working in two schools, Kirkstall St Stephen's and Little London Primary. We have had three coaches (Heather McLeen, Albert Lucas and I) working with six children.

It is a real privilege to be able to support these children and their families, often through quite difficult circumstances. We can be an encouraging and stable influence in their lives. Away from the pressures of the classroom the children have the opportunity to talk, be creative and have fun. As coaches it is rewarding to see children more happy and settled,

Both schools would love to have more coaches. Please think about getting involved.



and able to participate fully in school life.



The schools notice and appreciate what we're doing and teachers have made comments such as, "She doesn't have as many meltdowns now", "He's much calmer and less angry than he used to be", "She's so much happier and more confident."

Both schools would love to have more coaches, so if you are able to spare some time each week please think about getting involved. Sometimes we can feel that the need is vast and there is little we can do. One of the things which I personally have enjoyed about doing this work is that rather than spreading ourselves thinly and feeling overstretched, we are able to commit time and resources to individual children, and their families, and really make a difference to their happiness and life chances.

Life is changing for me and I will be spending more time with my parents in Sheringham, which sadly means that I will have to give up my work with TLG as I will no longer be able to make a regular commitment (although I am hoping to help one child with their

transition to secondary school). The role of coordinator will pass into Heather's capable hands. I am conscious that she is already very busy so please pray for her and for the work of TLG.

You can find out more at lighthouse.tlg.org.uk/web/early Intervention

Hazel Randall

Preaching With A View

Potential Senior Minister Peter and his wife Ann will be with us on the weekend of 23-25 September to meet as many people as possible and for Peter to "Preach with a View" at Headingly in the morning and the evening.

Prior to this you are encouraged to pray for insight, wisdom, revelation and unity for us and for them in your small groups and in the regular church prayer meetings. There will be a particular focus on this in the following prayer meetings:

- Tuesdays 2 & 30 August 11.15am in the Green House
- Wednesdays 10 August & 7 September 7am at Cragg Hill
- Fridays 19 August & 9 September noon at Cragg Hill
- Saturdays 27 August & 17

September 10am in the Green House

- Thursday 22 September 7.30pm in the Green House.

Charles Fletcher

Church Secretary

Northside Decides

On the 10 July Northside held a momentous congregation meeting to consider three key questions:

- Shall we continue to meet at Adel Primary School?
- Should we continue with Outburst Sunday?
- Should we have Café Church twice a month?

Northside

After a well-managed and respectful

meeting where most people spoke and everyone was listened to it was time to take the vote. . .

The decisions were : NO, YES, NO with a clear majority.

The decision is not to close Northside down. We will keep the ABC Coffee Shop, Café church, Outburst Sunday, home groups and the Northside Leadership Team. We have recognised that we are a small congregation trying to offer different mission activities in different places, but now know that

Seeing the Olympics from the Inside

Christians in Sport

Like many millions across the globe, Adam Pengilly can't wait for Rio 2016. The Olympics are billed as the greatest show on earth and if you are a sports fan it is not hard to see why.

However, while most of us will be glued to our TVs, often in the early hours of the morning, very few will get to see the games from the inside. That is the position Adam occupies as an International Olympic Committee (IOC) Member.



Adam Pengilly

The 38-year-old competed for Great Britain and Northern Ireland at skeleton bobsleigh in the 2006 and 2010 Winter Olympics. He was also a world silver medallist in 2009 and then retired in 2012.

Adam is one of 15 athlete representatives of the 100 or so IOC Members and was elected for an eight-year term at the 2010 Winter

Olympics in Vancouver. He is one of four British members - the others being Princess Anne, World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada) President Sir Craig Reedie and International Paralympic Committee (IPC) President Sir Philip Craven.

As a Christian in sport, Adam is seeking to be real and share the gospel with the people he knows in that environment. It would be great to pray for him and any other Christians you know of involved in the Games.

At the Olympics, Adam's diary will include various meetings such as two Athletes' Commission meetings and a meeting with the IOC's Executive Board. As part of an almost four-week stay in Brazil, he will also be part of the IOC Session, which is effectively an annual meeting, before attending the opening ceremony.

Adam said: "During the Games, we will have different roles such as being available for athletes to talk through issues with us, running focus groups and helping run the election for new athletes joining our Commission."

It would be great to pray for Adam and other Christians involved in the Games

"Four new members are elected every summer games and two each winter games. The first week of the games is quite hectic. I found this especially during London because I had other roles as well. I will still get to watch a decent amount of sport and will give out a few medals."

Adam and his colleagues can request which sports they do this for. He said: "It's on my list of to-dos. I will apply and see what I get."

Two of the 15 athletes on Adam's commission are competing in Rio, though most are retired or take up the role towards the end of their sporting careers. He said: "I carried on competing for about two years after I was elected."

Most people will retire either before or during their office."

As a follower of Jesus, Adam has a great opportunity to witness about Him among his colleagues and the staff, but he says the political nature of the IOC also throws up many challenges.

"It's a weird and wonderful mix of people on the IOC, quite eclectic in some ways," said Adam. "You have got members of royal families, sporting greats and then you have people who don't really have that much sporting history, but have great experience in other areas."

"Because there are often elections going on, it is hard to make deep friendships and establish trust. But when you are there, in some ways it's like a family."

Being an IOC Member has given Adam great insight into what goes on behind the scenes at the Olympics. He said: "When you are an athlete, you have no idea about the upper echelons of sports administration or politics. When I got involved with London 2012 for the last Summer Olympics, I realised that I knew about 0.5 per cent of what went on."



“As an athlete, I would just get up in the morning, go to the dining room for breakfast, come back, get ready and go out to train, then do the same for lunch and train in the afternoon. The infrastructure that is needed just to make that happen for 10,500 athletes is incredible.”

Looking ahead to Rio 2016, Adam said: “I think there will be a really good atmosphere, partly because of the way the Brazilians are and their vibrant personalities. However, they have got some real challenges in their country at the moment, so I think for many locals the Games will be a short break from those challenges.

“Hopefully the Brazilian team will do well, so the people can really get behind them. I am sure it will be a big carnival, which will be great.”

While there have been lots of negative headlines around the Olympics, Adam said the Games are bringing

real benefits to Rio as well.

He said: “The sort of infrastructure developments that maybe would have taken 50 years have taken place in six or seven. They have got a metro line, new bus routes and some tunnels have been dug through the mountains. This will be a real legacy. One of the challenges is that they left things a bit late, so costs were higher.”

How would Adam like us to pray for him?

Adam said: “Please pray that I would be “salt and light”, that I would take opportunities to share the gospel and that I will be sincere and that people will trust my motives, despite the political environment.”

Ed Mezzetti

Christians in Sport

This article is taken from the Christians in Sport website and used with permission

...inspired...

Christians in Sport's mission is to reach the world of sport for Christ. They encourage Christians to get stuck into sport and as they go they help support them to represent God wherever they play and in whatever role, through training events, chaplaincy, resources, groups, training schemes and 1-1 support.

To find out more visit

www.christiansinsport.org.uk



Trust the Lord!

*I am not conceited, Lord,
and I don't waste my time
on impossible schemes.
But I have learned to feel safe
and satisfied,
just like a young child
on its mother's lap.
People of Israel,
you must trust the Lord
now and forever.*



Psalm 131 (CEV)

Prayer Diary



August & September 2016

AUGUST

Sun	7	David and Judy Morris
Mon	8	Caring for Life
Tue	9	Our friend returning to North Africa this week
Wed	10	Christians in Sport and Adam Pengilly (see page 11)
Thu	11	Preachers and worship leaders in all Mission Communities
Fri	12	Your Mission Community Leadership Team
Sat	13	Kate Burkett
Sun	14	The church office
Mon	15	Rooted
Tue	16	Cragg Mission Community
Wed	17	Those leading holiday camps this summer
Thu	18	Young people receiving A Level results today
Fri	19	Under 5s work
Sat	20	The Joanna Project
Sun	21	Northside Mission Community

Pull out and use!

Mon	22	Geoff King
Tue	23	Chris Gnanakan (<i>see page 26</i>)
Wed	24	OTAN's Point Persons (<i>see page 27-29</i>)
Thu	25	Young people receiving GCSE results today
Fri	26	The Deacons
Sat	27	Nathan Shipley
Sun	28	Lawrence Cockrill
Mon	29	The Arabic Christian Fellowship
Tue	30	Your neighbours
Wed	31	Colin & Jill Jones and their work with the church in Normandy
SEPTEMBER		
Thu	1	The Elders
Fri	2	The Ministry Team
Sat	3	The concert at Headingley in aid of ACT (<i>see page 33</i>)
Sun	4	Headingley Morning Mission Community
Mon	5	Sam and Katie _____ (<i>see page 14</i>)
Tue	6	Steve Cooper and Kate Churchill
Wed	7	Members and friends who are sick, or in hospital
Thu	8	Young People meeting in Cell Groups
Fri	9	ABC Coffee Shop (<i>see page 24</i>)
Sat	10	Heather McLeen
Sun	11	Church @ Little London
Mon	12	Andrew Bedingham and the work of the CAP centre
Tue	13	Missionaries with BMS World Mission
Wed	14	TLG mentors working with children in schools

Thu	15	St George's Crypt
Fri	16	Work with children and young people across the church
Sat	17	Paul Rockley
Sun	18	Connect Mission Community
Mon	19	Young people heading to university for the first time
Tue	20	Levi Booth in Japan
Wed	21	Brian and Elsie Nicholls
Thu	22	Sent Mission Community
Fri	23	The Barnabas Bunch
Sat	24	Peter and Ann as they visit the church this weekend
Sun	25	People who can't get to church any more
Mon	26	Someone you know who doesn't know Jesus
Tue	27	John Lockwood and Christians in Science (see page 25)
Wed	28	Adrian Howe, church treasurer
Thu	29	Charles Fletcher, church secretary
Fri	30	Your Home Group leader
OCTOBER		
Sat	1	Pray for another local church
Sun	2	You and your place within South Parade

*I look to the mountains;
where will my help come from?
My help will come from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.*

Psalm 121.1-2 (GNT)

Back to School

God of life and love, we thank you for the new beginning that each day brings.

We pray for the young people who will return to school, for those who are moving school, and those who are attending school for the first time. Eclipse anxiety with excitement, that education may be a truly liberating and joyful experience.

We pray for parents who breathe a deep sigh of late summer relief, and for parents who worry on their child's behalf. Awaken in them an awareness of the calling of parenthood, and encourage them through the highs and lows of their privileged ministry.

We pray for young people preparing to leave for university. Equip them with all that is needed on the road to independence. As their parents face a miniature grief, comfort them with the assurance of your presence with them and their children.

We pray for all who long for a new start. Reveal yourself to them as the God whose mercy is new every morning. You who have promised to restore the years the locusts have eaten, restore to us this day a deep love for you, a renewed desire to please you, a passion to receive the future you have planned for us.



Come Prepared

Preaching Themes and Readings for Morning Services

Date	Theme	Readings
<p>FINDING HOME: RUTH</p> <p><i>The book of Ruth is a wonderful overview of the journey of salvation that we all must make. From picking up Naomi and Elimelech as foreigners in a foreign country, the story progresses to Ruth being accepted as a Moabitess and eventually finding favour and a home in Bethlehem.</i></p> <p><i>The climax of the story being the wonderful fact that Ruth becomes part of a grand and divine destiny resulting in the birth of Christ as Messiah</i></p> <p><i>It is a picture of us all who, as Moabites, have been grafted into the kingdom of God having been aliens from it. It is reflective of the wonderful truths opened up in Romans 11 of the olive branch of the Gentiles being grafted in to the true vine of Israel.</i></p>		
7 August	Life on the Outside	Ruth 1
14 August	An invitation to belong	Ruth 2
21 August	The journey home	Ruth 3
28 August	Part of the family	Ruth 4
<p>FOLLOW ME</p>		
4 September	Call to discipleship	Matthew 4.18-22 Matthew 9.9-13
11 September	Cost of discipleship	Matthew 16.21-28
18 September	Distinctive disciples	Matthew 5.13-16
25 September	Multiplying disciples	Matthew 28.16-20

BMS World News

Guinea: Cursed Children and Blessings

Football is just one of the ways Sitongua and Lynne Laussu are starting to help the local community in Labé, Guinea.

Sitongua and Lynne have a passion for working with the young people in Labé. After chatting to local kids, Sitongua found there was a keen interest in sport, especially football, so at the end of March he started Barkinabhè Football Club.

Barkinabhè has a deep meaning in the local language. It means “blessed children”. The name is inspired by the many children who feel cursed in Labé.

“Some children are regarded as accursed by family members or others in the community,” says Sitongua. “For instance, if a mother dies during delivery and leaves the baby, the dissatisfied spirit of the mother is

believed to be powerful and cause misfortunes among the living.”

As well as training these children in football, Sitongua is teaching them life skills and showing them how special they are to God.

“We are also aiming to form good character, so they are good citizens in the future,” says Sitongua.

Sitongua is not just concentrating on football. He is also involved in a group at the University Centre of Labé and is hoping to lead discussions and build relationships with the students there.



Education is at the heart of what Lynne wants to do too. Although Sitongua and Lynne moved to Labé a year ago, Lynne has been back in the UK for medical reasons. She returned to Guinea in May and wants to explore ways she can help meet the educational needs of children and young people.

Do you want to help support the mission of the football team in Guinea? When you sign up to become a 24:7 Partner, you can support work like this and enable BMS workers to help transform lives. Visit bmsworld-mission.org/partners

The Incredible Story: How God was with Children during the Nepal Earthquake

One Bible story made all the difference for BMS World Mission worker Helen Douglas and a group of children she was teaching when the earthquake hit in April 2015.

The earth is shaking. The building is swaying. Doors are slamming violently. And there is a roaring noise like an aeroplane. All this is happening as 40 terrified children sit huddled together in the hallway of a Nepali church. They cling to their teacher, BMS worker Helen Douglas, and she knows that she has to find a way to be the calm in the midst of this storm.

“Do you remember what we were just learning?” says Helen. “We were talking about Joseph and how God was with him even when he

was scared. And God is with us now, even though it’s frightening.”



It was God’s perfect timing. The earthquake happened on the very day in her series on Joseph that covered his scary experience of imprisonment.

“It was a blessing,” says Helen. “I think it was amazing that we were able to reassure them in the midst of the earthquake when the ground was still moving and say “God is with us and this isn’t God being angry. He is still with us.””

One week after the first earthquake in Nepal, Helen and the children met to talk about how they felt during the traumatic experience. Helen



asked them to draw pictures of how they felt and then draw a picture of where they thought God was during the earthquake.

“All of the children drew God standing next to them or holding them,” says Helen. “It was amazing that they all recognised God’s presence.”

Please pray for Angus and Helen Douglas and their three children as they continue to live and work in Nepal.

Jam and Jesus

ABC Coffee Shop

Last Thursday morning I served 19 pots of tea and 18 cups of coffee, alongside various cakes (I recommend the sponge squares topped with jam and coconut), sandwiches (bacon is a popular choice) and other light lunches.

I have been a volunteer on Thursday mornings at the ABC coffee shop at Holt Park for just over a year, and thoroughly enjoy it. There are many regular customers, and the varied, sometimes surprising, conversation with them and the other staff is one of the pleasures of the job.

Today I watched as one of our youngest regulars proudly carried his drink (which he had ordered and paid for) back to his table for the first time. Older regulars are impressed when you remember how they like their tea or coffee. The Thursday team agree that it would make a good setting for a sitcom, sometimes

more like *Dinnerladies* than *Friends*! The coffee shop opened in

The coffee shop is part of our vision to take church out into the community

November 1999 as part of the (then named) Adel Mission Community's vision to take church out into the community. It is in one of a row of shops units behind Asda at Holt Park, and if you've never been before, then I recommend a visit.

It is open Monday to Friday 10-3 (early closing at 2.30 on Friday) and is managed and staffed entirely by volunteers. Volunteers usually commit to help once a week for

either a morning or afternoon session, typically three or four hours a week. Some of the volunteers are from South Parade and others come from different local churches and organisations.



The ABC Coffee Shop

More volunteers are needed – you don't need any qualifications or specific experience (training will be given), you just need to be willing and happy to work as part of a

team. If you would like to find out more see the details below.

Claire Hall

Coffee Shop Volunteer

...involved...

To find out more, you can chat to Claire at Headingley on a Sunday morning, email the coffee shop manager Rosemary Jevons or telephone the church office expressing your interest and someone from the coffee shop will call you back.



Christians in Science

Tuesday 27 September, 8-9.30pm
(light refreshments at 7.30pm)

South Parade Baptist Church, Headingley



CHRISTIANS IN SCIENCE

Speaker: Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, Senior Research Associate, The Faraday Institute, St Edmund's College, University of Cambridge.

The Wonders of the Living World: Biology, Belief, and the Search for Meaning and Purpose in the Universe.

Christians who are scientists often find that their work gives them a sense of awe and wonder that feeds into their worship. They don't find proof for God, but what they see in creation resonates with their beliefs, turns their attention to the character of God, and reminds them that the world has been made for a purpose. This talk will go beyond the usual debates about science and religion, drawing on the work of successful scientists who are also people of faith. Dr Bancewicz will focus on celebrating creation, appreciating its intricacies and fruitfulness, and sharing how discoveries about the living world can hint at questions of meaning that go beyond science.

Ruth Bancewicz is a Senior Research Associate at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge University, where she works on the positive interaction between science and faith. Ruth is a trustee of Christians in Science. See the last edition of Intouch (available on the church website) for more about Dr Bancewicz.

Further details from John Lockwood via the church office

Gnanakan News

Equipping Disciple-Makers

With prayer and money, South Parade supports our mission partner Chris Gnanakan as executive director of OTAN, growing churches in hard-to-reach parts of Asia. In this extract from his newsletter he explains more about their work and introduces us to some of their partners on the ground.

Since 1987, Otis Goodwin's unique vision for OTAN that has made our mission distinct is the concept of nationals reaching nationals. Whenever God wanted

Gnanakan News



to do a great work, he didn't summon a committee - he called and favoured one person! The *man* starts a *ministry* that creates a *movement*. But if the original vision is lost, this *movement* soon becomes a *monument*!

Our Point Person is a national influence

OTAN's singular task is to equip national disciple-makers, something most people don't. Our target is unreached people groups without access to the gospel. We empower Asia nationals to reach their own people and do what most of us won't, due to geo-political, socio-cultural and ethno-linguistic barriers. We specifically serve within restricted-access countries and encourage national leaders to do what western missionaries can't. No country is closed if we've got the key! But what is it?

For OTAN, the key is on the inside: our national workers! After years of travel and research, I'm convinced nationals reaching nationals is the most efficient and effective missions strategy. Just doing ministry won't change the world; a missional movement will!

So how can we start, steward, and sustain such movements? We need that someone like the "man of peace" Jesus asked those he sent out in Luke 10.6 to look for. This is OTAN's **Point Person** within the restricted country and foreign culture we bring the gospel to. Our Point Person is a national influencer the Holy Spirit sovereignty places in our path. These Point Persons (1) like us, (2)



want to learn from us, and (3) let us into their lives and community!

Our Ministry Managers have hand-picked faithful, available, and teachable nationals to serve as their "on the ground" Point Person to depend on. Typically, a Point Person is bilingual, bicultural, bivocational; hence, they are key to our overseas ministry. This newsletter highlights their vital role and responsibilities. Let OTAN be an extension of you and your local church in expediting our Lord's Great Commission by *doing what most others don't, won't and can't!*

Chris Gnanakan

OTAN

Laos

Without **Chan**, our Laotian Point Person, our



ministry in Laos would be extremely limited. Not only is he an asset to OTAN for all the co-ordinating he does, our Point Person is also heavily involved in the local churches and districts. As a multilingual national, and former US resident, Chan is uniquely qualified to serve as a bridge between cultures, language barriers, and networks to help OTAN fulfil our vision of empowering nationals to reach nationals.

Indonesia

K has been invaluable since partnering with him in 2012. He mobilises national church planters (seminary-trained pastors) all over Indonesia. I play a supporting role in assisting him with training and establishing micro-businesses. The micro-businesses provide a means for supporting the church planters as they do ministry. **K** has mobilised over 40 church planters and continues to encourage and send them out.

Russia

Nastya is vital to our Russia ministry. She interprets for OTAN members who minister in Russia and also translates quarterly reports for the pastors we financially support. In addition, she is a trusted adviser who provides valuable insight into Russian culture and the difficulties that Russian believers face. It is difficult to imagine OTAN ministering in Russia without her.



Vietnam

OTAN is very blessed to have **Wendy** serving as our Point Person in Vietnam. Wendy speaks English very well and she is the bridge between Vietnam and OTAN in the States. She is organized, administratively competent, humble, and responsible; but Wendy's best quality is her passion to see people reached with the gospel. Besides serving as Point Person in Vietnam, she is also actively part of OTAN's Women's Ministry. During school breaks and holidays, Wendy and her family/friends often organize special outreaches for local village children. Wendy is driven by love and a passion for her people and her Saviour.



Cambodia

OTAN has a large emphasis on finding that “**person of peace**” referenced in Luke 10. We couldn't agree more with this concept. And so, while our first trip to Cambodia will have several purposes, one of the main goals is to establish a strong relationship with our Point Person. We hope that our Point Person in Cambodia will be a “man (or woman) of peace” who will work fluidly with us, guiding both the Cambodian pastors we hope to train and their own church work. For the cause of Christ and his gospel, we sincerely want to get our foot in the door of this country, and in the hearts of the pastors there. We know that we cannot do this without a reliable, peaceable, and passionate Point Person.



China

Becca has served as the Point Person for China for the past 12 years. She is instrumental in making travel arrangements for us and establishing connections with the Chinese to equip and train them for ministry. Becca and her husband also serve together with a Chinese-American team of missionaries in northeastern China. Please pray for her and her family as they continue to work and serve alongside us in China!



Nepal

*Nepal and OTAN are extremely blessed to have **Prakash** as our Point Person. He is a gifted musician, preacher, and administrator. He is a person of integrity and manages all facets of the Nepal ministry with great care. I am personally blessed and spiritually challenged by him on a regular basis. Prakash is committed to OTAN's mission to plant new churches among the unreached people groups of Nepal.*



Myanmar

*Before **Robert J** became a Christian, he was involved in the travel industry. Now he can show his travel guide license whenever he's stopped by a government official while helping missionaries. Robert J is also involved in printing materials, so when OTAN holds a training session in Myanmar, he translates and publishes our material to use for discipleship in the different villages. He's also instrumental in arranging our transportation and lodging. As Myanmar's Point Person, Robert J is a great asset to OTAN's ministry of training and discipling national workers*



Bhutan

***C** is an essential part of the ministry in Bhutan. Not only do we find his lighthearted personality a joy to work with, but his gifting is the main reason we are even able to get into Bhutan. He owns a tourist business, which allows us to get into the country legally. He is also administrative in getting all the necessities of travelling abroad squared away for us. On top of that, C is great at organising gatherings of pastors. It is his humble servant-leadership that draws people to follow his influential lead. His consistency in "follow-through" keeps people following God. We couldn't do this without him.*



***J** has a pastoral nurturing that truly tends to the heart of our partnership in Bhutan. Typically, J uses his home as the meeting place of all these travelling pastors. His hospitality and quiet service really encourages them. He is soft-spoken, but when he speaks, it is with a sweetness that draws people to listen. J likes to be goofy at times, making him truly personable. But more importantly, he has a heart to see these pastors come together to reach Bhutan.*

...inspired... Pray for all these church leaders in difficult and dangerous situations, and remember Chris as he leads the organisation.

Ford's Focus

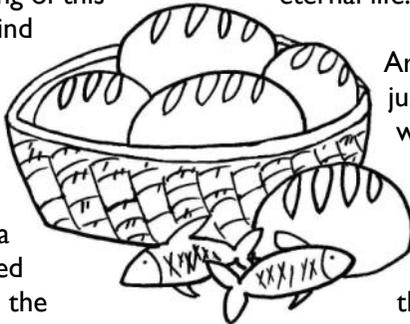
John's Gospel Part 8: Where is the Food?

Steve Ford's in depth look at John's Gospel continues in chapter 6, verses 1-15.

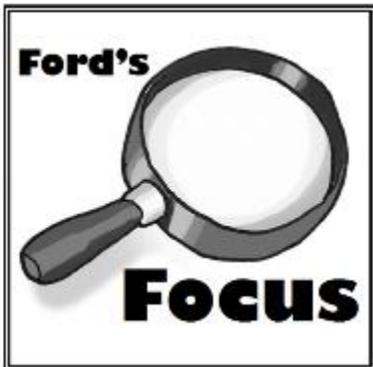
Why do we follow Jesus?

At the beginning of this chapter we find many people following Jesus: by the end of it the number has dwindled. In John 6.2 the passage tells us that a large number followed because Jesus healed the sick. They got personal and physical benefit. Now don't misunderstand me, I believe God can heal and that

is the point because Jesus says in this chapter that actually it is God who brings people to him (verse 44). Each one of us needs to believe in the one God sent (verse 29) not for physical healing alone but for eternal life.



Are we following Jesus just because he fed us with a morsel of bread and a piece of fish? Are we following for some physical or material gain or so that our lives can be transformed into something that God can use for His glory?



Let's go back a bit to the point where Jesus asks Philip "where they can buy bread for food to feed all these people" (verse 5). Andrew pipes up, resourceful Andrew who just believed that all things were possible - his experience of God was big.

Remember he had brought his brother Peter to Jesus with the

words “we have found the anointed one, the Christ”. Something had happened in his heart, in his innermost “spiritual” part when he had spent time with this man, Jesus (John 1.39). He had witnessed changed lives and knew that God was with this man Jesus, in fact he recognised that Jesus was God in man not man in God.

*How many of us limit
God before giving Him
a chance?*

“We have five loaves and two small fish” he says, “but what are they among so many?” At least he spoke up and didn't limit God before he had given him a chance. How many of us do this? We look at the insignificance of what we have and say it is not enough, it is impossible. Remember Mary in John 2.5 who just said “do whatever he says”, she was

not fazed by the scale of the problem. Andrew was the same, he was not fazed by the scale of this insurmountable task.

It's at that point that Jesus takes over and uses what little we have or what is available and produces something magnificent. Remember it is not what we have that makes us useful to God, it is what we don't have that makes us a resource that God can use for His glory and whereby many can benefit from food that sustains them.

But beware, people will follow for what they can get not for what they can give. The true cost of discipleship is recognising that all we have is from God alone and what we bring and what we share is for the benefit of the wider community.

Steve Ford
blog.stevelford.me.uk

Gotta catch 'em all?



South Parade Baptist Church

16 July at 09:39

South Parade is a Pokemon Go gym! Come down to see which Pokemon you can find!

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Church Noticeboard

The Power of a Simple Gift



South Parade Baptist Church will get involved with this year's Operation Christmas Child organised by Samaritan's Purse. Join millions in this exciting project and be a part of changing children's lives all over the world in Jesus' name through the power of a simple gift. More information on how to prepare your shoeboxes and the collection dates will be provided nearer the time.

House of Prayer



Every Saturday 8-11am, Green House, Headingley

The next edition of *Intouch* will be available at the start of October. Send news from Around the Church, stories of faith, photographs, notices, prayer requests, articles and reviews to magazine@spbc.org.uk by 16 September.

intouch



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including Operatic Arias, Folk Songs and instrumental music by Handel, Mozart, Chopin & Vaughan Williams



**Dearbhaile
O'Donnell**
Piano



**Sarah
Newman**
Clarinet



**Tracy
Fehr**
Soprano

7.30pm, Saturday 3 September
South Parade Baptist Church
Kirkstall Lane, Headingley

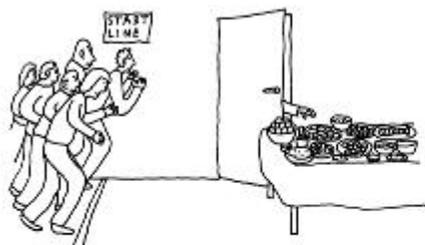
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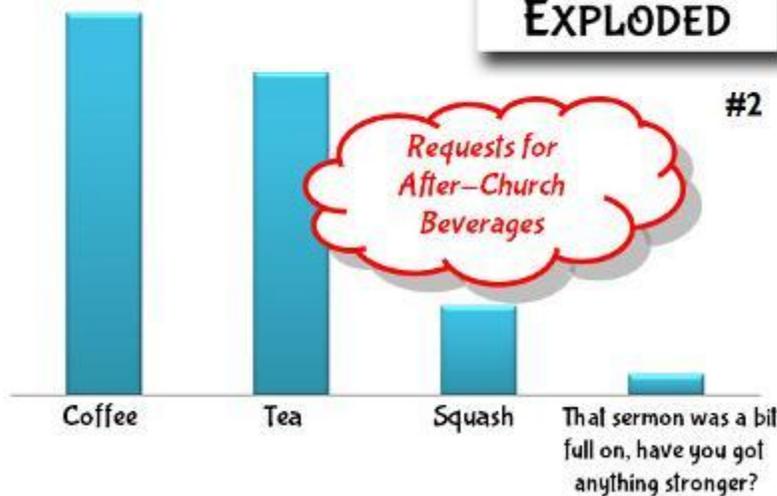
(NOTE: RISKY, RELIES ON THE ABSTEMIOUSNESS OF OTHERS)

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CartoonChurch.com

CHRISTIANITY EXPLODED

#2



christianityexploded.tumblr.com.



South Parade meets as five distinctive Mission Communities across Leeds: in **Headingley** and **Cragg** on a Sunday Morning, and as **Sent** at Headingley on Sunday evenings. **Connect** meets in the community in Bramley. **Northside** meets in Adel and at the ABC Coffee Shop in Holt Park. We're involved with Church@Little London, run a CAP Debt Centre and have a partnership with the Arabic Christian Fellowship. To find out more, visit the website or contact the church office.

Together, we have a shared vision to **build community in Christ**. We hope that all who meet us will be helped to **belong** to Christ and his people, will discover what it means to **believe** in him, and will **become** all that he invites them to be in character, lifestyle, witness and service.

Minister	Paul Rockley
Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults	Nathan Shipley
Children's Worker	Heather McLeen
Associate Pastor	Geoff King
Church Administrators	Kate Churchill/Steve Cooper
Associate Pastor	Lawrence Cockrill
Under 5s Co-ordinator	Kate Burkett
Elders	Andrew Bedingham, Steve Burras, Neil Cowling, Freeman Dumenu, Charles Fletcher (Church Secretary), Adrian Howe (Church Treasurer), Ruth Hughes, John Pelham, Sue Ricketts

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“

You've all been to the stadium and seen the athletes race. Everyone runs; one wins. Run to win. All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You're after one that's gold eternally.

”

I Corinthians 9.24-25 (The Message)

intouch

SOUTH PARADE
BAPTIST CHURCH
Building Community in Christ