



**BRISTOL
CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP**

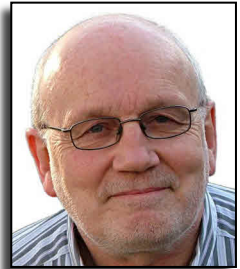
EQUIPPING CHRISTIANS
TO BUILD CHURCHES
TO CHANGE OUR WORLD

BCF NEWS

December 2010

Passing the baton

Dave Day's last regular column



On my computer, I have hundreds of bulletin articles spanning many years. Though often tempted, I have resisted plucking a random article from eons past to see if anyone would notice. I am very grateful to Christine and Ian Wilson who have translated what I have written into English and of course I pass all the blame onto them if you haven't agreed with anything!

With the changes in BCF, this will be my last regular article but I am sure you will cope with not seeing my photograph on the front page. The changes herald some exciting possibilities. Tim, Pete and Matt have the opportunity to develop their areas of passion and interest. Having wanted to release responsibility to younger leaders, I want to ensure they have freedom and scope to pursue their passion. That always generates life.

For many years, Rhi and I have wanted to develop a Trust that would help support some of the many friends and partnerships we have around the world. Recently, we have been encouraged by the Trustees and Network team to set up a Trust. We are keen to do so and feel that now is

the right time. As we see BCF taken on by others, it gives us the chance to devote our energy and passion into seeing this Trust develop. It will give us the opportunity to focus more specifically on areas in which we have been involved. For many years, I led Bridge Ministries which was a network of leaders, churches and ministries and have maintained contact with those people even though I have not had the time to be as proactive with them as I would have liked. We now have more time for that.

We have been privileged to work in many different nations. We still consider that is an important part of our call so we will continue that involvement. We have always wanted to involve others with us in all we do. Several churches are involved with Mutende and also with Jey and Lizy's churches in India. Setting up a new Trust will not diminish BCF's opportunity to work in these nations.

I have also been able to work with other churches in the UK, some with a Pioneer link and some not. I will endeavour to continue to bring leaders together and hopefully offer appropriate support. We have also been involved in mentoring people inside BCF and church leaders from further afield. That again will continue. I feel very fortunate to walk alongside some younger leaders in the region and invest in their lives.

Having led BCF for so many years, I want to reiterate my thanks for the love, care and support through some great times and difficulties. I am excited by the potential of the next phase for us all.

Have a great Christmas!

Gospel Generation Community Choir

(Music director Geraldine Latty)

Christmas concert

Cairns Road Baptist church, Henleaze

7pm on 9th December

Come and enjoy some good music, fellowship and food.

More details: speak to Alan and Vivienne Cable

Passing the baton 2

Tim Groves

There are 'moments' in life which insist on speaking for themselves. Such times are according to one social commentator nothing short of 'announcements'. These are those occasions which once passed will require no real effort to point back towards. Births, marriages, deaths, beginning and endings, each contain such palpable capabilities. I believe BCF is at just such a time corporately. Many of us are feeling the weight of decisions made and are alive to both change and new possibilities. In such moments it is right to take time out to reflect and gather our thoughts.

By way of aiding you in your reflections let me bring a few things to mind. As Dave and Neil (see Pete's article) consider picking up and running with those things that bring them joy and release, we ought to thank God for their input in our personal lives and that of the church. While roles change and space is given to pursue new or ongoing passions, we ought to speak with real pride and gratitude for these guys.

It is with a thankful and somewhat trembling heart and hand that I accept the responsibility of leading the network. It is the measure of the men that Dave and Neil are that they have sought to release, at some cost to themselves, the church to new hands. As we begin to plan for the new year, and anticipate beginning the year in prayer and worship (see Andrew's article), and with upcoming Baptisms, we move ahead together with much anticipation.

Pete, Matt and I would value your prayers and support as we move forward.

Passing the baton 3

Pete Osborne pays a tribute to Neil Edbrooke

I can't really write an article that will do justice to its subject – especially about Neil, whose writing (and moustache growing) skills are vastly superior to mine. So this is not some official announcement, but a personal reflection on a relationship that has meant and continues to mean a great deal to me.

Neil has worked for BCF for 30 years, and invested himself in the church for much longer than that. From 1 January 2011, he will no longer be salaried by BCF; instead he will be seeking to develop [his photography business](#). Although he remains part of Aardvark, and his passion for church is undiminished, it is important that we mark this, and the contribution Neil has made in the leadership of the church. I could easily list numerous things he has done in creating and building church in Bristol and beyond, yet in doing so I'm sure I would only be skimming the surface.

Thinking back, most of the time I've spent with Neil has probably been in the car! Being ferried from place to place (especially in my younger years) we had numerous conversations about all things from Macs (the computers not the MacSorleys!) to football to Dallas Willard. Neil and Zoe have opened up their home to me, always welcoming and generous. They have in many ways, been like second parents to me. I have had many a meal at the Edbrookes, where 10 minutes beforehand, no-one is quite sure who exactly is going to turn up. We've turned the lounge wall into a giant TV screen to watch the World Cup with all and sundry. If a BBQ is planned, Neil gets out his umbrella in anticipation, and faithfully cooks sausages in the rain while others huddle indoors!

Neil has a mischievous side too, with an uncanny ability to use his deaf ear to his advantage. When I finished my degree course, Neil and Zoe took Lindsay and me to Thornbury Castle to celebrate. We didn't bump into David Beckham, but as we were driving through the grounds, we passed some people practicing archery close to the road. With the window open, Neil, commented loudly, 'they're not very good are they?'

Neil has always had time for me; always been willing to talk through issues; always willing to listen. And yet even amidst all the conversations,

and the wisdom I have gleaned from Neil, the thing that stands out to me is the way he lives. Someone who very simply has asked the question 'what does the gospel mean for my life?' and has consistently responded to that, despite the cost. If I could sum up what I have learnt from Neil over the years, it would be this: life is less about what you say, and more about the person you are. The world is full of people who try to sell us things, who can speak the right language, use the right words; but the person whose life speaks is rare.

Many people have said the reason they are part of BCF is because of Neil. We pray that God blesses his new endeavours and that as he pursues his photography he would see God opening up new opportunities in all that he does.

Resound Building

The site is flat and the prices are in! The existing Blackhorse Centre has now been demolished and the site is ready and waiting for construction to start early in the New Year. The Contractors' bids are interesting, with three in the right ballpark, but have assorted options attached to them. Our Quantity Surveyors, whom we have employed as Project Manager for the build, have been so helpful all along and have done a great job of sifting through all the detail and we have now whittled the contractors down from five to two.

So, this is the exciting bit – detailed discussions with both short-listed companies in order to decide which one to employ. As this is still a competitive process we can't yet disclose their names.

We will need to find some ways of reducing the costs, but still end up with a great building that meets our needs, is sustainable, interesting, high quality and performs really well in the future. Not too much of a challenge surely...?

The Evening Post ran an article at the end of November – see the link on a new blog for the build where you can regularly catch up with what's happening. <http://buildingresound.blogspot.com/>

Severn Ridge

The design for the planning application (2 building plots) is currently being finalised and the submission to the council will be made mid December.

Cathy Knowles

Caleb Year

- ✓ A year for people 40+
- ✓ An opportunity to reflect, be re-envisioned and re-energised.
- ✓ Including learning together, worship and discussion, personal development, with opportunities to serve locally and abroad.
- ✓ Full time and part time options.

What is Caleb Year about?

Do you want to deepen and extend your understanding and experience of Christian discipleship and spirituality? Would you like time to explore the issues, questions, and challenges facing the world today? Do you want to engage globally and locally, in community and individually?

The purpose of this year is to create room to explore questions, to wrestle with tensions that age and experience bring, to marry the hope and faith of the Christian gospel with the recognition that we have not arrived, rather “we press on to take hold of that purpose for which Christ Jesus has taken hold of us.” What changes can we make? Who are we becoming? Where and how can we contribute to the emergence of vibrant, relevant expressions of church that connect with our culture?

Time is a precious asset. We want to design a space and time to give attention to the most important issues in life.

What shape will the year take?

The course is intended to be experiential rather than academic. However, the aim is for flexibility: there will be opportunity for some people to focus more on study while others may concentrate on learning by experience. You may also bring valuable skills and experience which others can benefit from.

The year will include the following elements. (The part-time option will cover most of these aspects but with different time commitments.)

- Service in your own local church (the equivalent of one day per week)
- Teaching / seminar input (the equivalent of one day per week)
- Group sessions including worship and time for individual mentoring, including personal development of skills and interests
- Volunteer time with local charity work and UK based missional projects (the equivalent of one day per week)
- International experience. Depending on resources, there would be at least one visit to overseas situations and the option of more. These are likely to be a mixture of pioneering and established projects.

We hope that Caleb Year will involve participants both from BCF and from other churches. There are more details to be arranged, including the cost, but if you are interested in exploring the possibility of Caleb Year, contact Dave, Neil or Linda for further details, or email Linda Wilson .

Crossways pre-school: trustees

Crossways Pre-school is a charity linked to BCF and will soon relocate to the new Resound building in Blackhorse. We are looking for someone(s) with a heart for children's work and also the community to join our team of Trustees as we help to support and manage Crossways.

If you have experience in IT, accountancy, the legal profession or management then these qualities would be especially welcome. However, what matters most is that you are a committed Christian with energy and passion for the work of Crossways and Resound.

Interested? We hope so! If you would like more information about being a Trustee then please contact either Claire Wilson, Sarah Bennett, Debbie Carter or Claire Collins.

Who's who in BCF

CJ profiles **Mac and Valerie MacSorley**

Valerie was born in Staple Hill, where her parents (some of you may remember Harold and Rene Coles) rented a house in Soundwell Road. She attended Staple Hill Infants and Primary School and then went on to Kingswood Grammar (now Kingsfield).



During her childhood, Valerie's best friend was Maureen Bird (who is also her cousin). She was always over at Maureen's house and they did everything together, including becoming Christians and getting baptised at Kensington Baptist Church when they were teenagers. They also belonged to a singing group led by Maureen called the Glad Tidings Sextet and they visited various churches and prisons with their music.

Valerie's first job after leaving school was in a Quantity Surveyor's office in Queen Square, starting with general office duties and moving on to typing.

Mac and Valerie met at Soundwell Baptist Church and they married eighteen months later. They started married life living with Mac's mother who, being a widow (Mac's father died when Mac was eight) had moved to Bristol from Wales. When their first son, Andrew, was born the couple moved into their own house in Gorse Hill where they still live. They had another son, Simon, and now have five grandchildren and have been married 52 years. When the children were born, Valerie gave up work to look after them and when they started school she got a job at her old school in Staple Hill as a general assistant, where she stayed until she retired. She also did her stint at Oasis when it was mostly being run by volunteers, where I remember her being in charge of greetings cards.

Valerie's hobbies include gardening, embroidery and reading and she still enjoys singing and so belongs to the Resound choir.

Mac was born in Cefn Fforest in Wales, the youngest of nine children. By the time Mac was born his oldest brother had left home and there were usually only five of them living in the family home at one time, such as the difference in their ages. Mac went to the village school and then on to Bedwellty Grammar School from where he matriculated, but he chose not to go to university for economic reasons. Instead he moved to Bristol to take up a five-year apprenticeship as a shopfitter/designer draughtsman at Parnalls in Fishponds, which seemed a much better option than following his brothers down the mines! Mac was called up to do his National Service at the end of this apprenticeship, so he joined the Royal Engineers when he was 21. He went on to become a Field Engineer and then a Tactical Sketcher at Divisional H.Q. in Germany during the Cold War. After this he returned to Parnalls and later worked for a couple of different architectural practices for eight years. He also had his own business for eight years.

Mac began attending Soundwell Baptist Church in 1954 shortly after being converted at a Billy Graham meeting. During his many years there he taught Sunday School, Bible Class, became a deacon, Church Secretary for two ministers and then when the last minister died Mac found himself with more and more responsibility. The role of deacons changed to elders, but it was not until 1984 that Mac became full-time pastor. By this time Soundwell Baptist Church had become Soundwell Christian Fellowship and Mac also had some responsibility for the fellowship at Oldland. It was also around this time that Oasis, Mac's vision of 'the church on the High Street', came to fruition. In 1991 SCF became part of Bristol Christian Fellowship and Mac became part of the leadership team.

Now officially retired, Mac is still involved with a consultancy group. His hobbies, now that he has time, include photography, painting and reading.

To Mutende with love.

If you have any unwanted Christmas presents this year; toiletries, socks, games or that fetching Christmas jersey, please give them to Dennis Bennett or bring them to the January 9th meeting. They will find a good home with the children and staff at Mutende.

Helen Hill

Maperio[™]

“Finding your purpose!”

January 2011

Please join us if you are:

- Seeking to live God’s purpose in your life
- At a point of transition in your life or career
- Thinking of making changes but undecided as to exactly which direction to take
- Addressing conflicts between your own values and those operating in your work environment

“Finding your purpose!” will give you the opportunity to step back from daily routine to :

- Gain clarity and purpose about your future direction
- Reflect deeply on the areas of your life that are important to you
- Explore your life and career from different perspectives

The programme is designed around 10 evening sessions and everyone has access to an exciting online tool (<http://www.maperio.org> Creative Metier’s Maperio[™]) and/or a hard copy workbook with Bible readings. We have been achieving profound results for participants as they connect with their calling.

“Its been a really great opportunity to reflect on my career and life goals in a communal context. I would recommend it to anyone unsure of the next step.” (SK)

Course Leader - Roger Allen.

For more details about the course or to find out about one-to-one coaching on these or any other issues, contact roger.angieallen@blueyonder.co.uk or 01454 416 446

Dates: From 7.30pm to 9.30pm every Tuesday from 25th January to 5th April 2011, except 22 February (half-term)

Venue: Severn Ridge, Almondsbury, BS32 4HH.

Network-wide worship event with Andy Au 8–9 January 2011

Andrew Price

We are planning a worship event with Andy Au on 8 and 9 January in the 24 hours leading up to our joint meeting on the 9th at the Thornbury Baptist Church Centre. Andy led a creative worship event at the last Pioneer leaders' conference where music, movement and other creative arts were combined in a rich expression of prayer and worship. We have asked him to work with us to help us go deeper and further in our worship.

We'd like everyone to join us for part or all of this event. We'll be starting at the Ark sometime on Saturday 8th (further details to follow). Put the date in your diary and encourage others from your church to come with you. This will be a chance for us to start the New Year as we mean to go on – exploring fresh new ways of loving and serving God.



Barn Dance
Friday 11 February

@Hanham Community Centre
7.30 pm - 11.30 pm

Tickets £8 (includes food)
There will be a bar throughout the evening

To purchase tickets please email sarahharvey@bcfnet.com or contact the office on 01454 613305
Proceeds to the Resound Community building project



RESOUND



Bristol Christian Fellowship

Office (Monday to Thursday)

Severn Ridge, 29 Gloucester Road, Almondsbury, Bristol BS32 4HH

Telephone: 01454 613305 Fax 01454 618030

BCF email: admin@bcfnet.com

BCF website www.bcfnet.com

BCF Diary December 2010

Sun 5	Resound meeting	10.30 am	Barley Close School <i>Neil Edbrooke</i> (Mark 15)
Sun 5	BCF South	11.00 am	Worship and Lunch (Ian and Linda Wilsons')
Sun 5	Aardvark	7.00 pm	The Ark <i>Worship evening</i>
Sun 12	Resound meeting	10.30 am	Barley Close School <i>Tim Groves</i> (Mark 16)
Sun 12	Aardvark	7.00 pm	The Ark <i>Andrew Price</i>
Mon 13	Resound Worship/intercession	7.30 pm	Severn Ridge
Sun 19	Resound Carol Service	10.30 am	Barley Close School
Sun 19	Aardvark Christmas Thing	7.00 pm	The Ark
Sun 26	(No Resound or Aardvark)		

January 2011

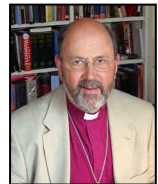
Sun 2	Resound	10.30 am	Barley Close School (Prayer and mission for new year)
Sun 2	BCF South	11.00 am	Worship and Lunch (Ian and Linda Wilsons')
Sun 2	(No Aardvark)		
Tue 4	Aardvark Family Thing	7.00 pm	At the Carruthers'

Sat 8 – Sun 9 Worship event at the Ark – see page 11

Sun 9	Joint BCF meeting	3.00 pm	Thornbury Baptist Church Centre
-------	-------------------	---------	---------------------------------

bsocs

Bristol School of Christian Studies



Putting the gospels back together How we've all misread our central story

A lecture by **Bishop Tom Wright**

Christchurch Clifton Tuesday 11 January 7.30 pm Entry £5

The next edition of BCF News will be published on Sunday 9 January
Entries for the January Bulletin by Christmas, please.

bulletin@bcfnet.com BCF News is edited by Ian Wilson

Read it online: [www.bcfnet.com/resources/BCF News](http://www.bcfnet.com/resources/BCF_News)