



**BRISTOL
CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP**

EQUIPPING CHRISTIANS
TO BUILD CHURCHES
TO CHANGE OUR WORLD

BCF NEWS

June 2011

The network moves on

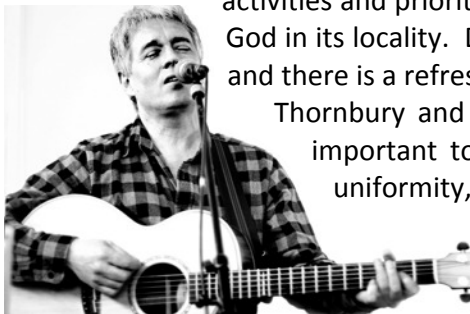
Andrew Price

By the time this bulletin appears, Tim will be in Zambia with Paul Uttley as part of our continuing commitment to Mutende and to Ruth Wallis in Sachibondu. In his absence, Tim has asked me to bring you up to date with the way the BCF network is developing.

A network of three churches

Back in 2009, BCF moved from being a single church to a network of three churches. Since then, each church has been developing the structure, activities and priorities it needs to express the love of God in its locality. Distinctive identities are emerging and there is a refreshing diversity in the ways Resound, Thornbury and Aardvark are shaping up. It's important to remember that it is unity, not uniformity, that brings blessing.

It's because of this unity, this desire to walk together, that we



have a network team. We have chosen to support each other, partly because of our shared history but mainly because we want to go forward together – to share our future.

The network team consists of Tim and Jayne Groves, Pete and Lindsay Osborne, Matt Sanderson and Ruth and me. Christine Fulterer attends our meetings as administrator and adds her very practical wisdom. The full team has only met two or three times so it's early days but the task we have set ourselves is to

- Pray for the three churches and listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying.
- Support, care for, advise and, if need be, challenge each other.
- Enable the three churches to link together. This could be to hold events like Stepping Beyond earlier this year, or to share resources or to support each other in prayer.

We want to serve and enhance the work of the three churches and, when it seems like a good idea, help them work together.

Accountability

As God wakes us up and leads us forward, we are very conscious of our need of wisdom. In different ways, each church is asking God to go deeper, to help us live the kingdom of God in everyday life. We can't do this alone. We need others who will share the journey to encourage us through the hard times and occasionally ask us difficult questions! This is no less true for those who lead the churches. The network team will provide some of this but we also want to benefit from the experience and insight of other leaders.

We are strengthening our links with the Pioneer network and Billy Kennedy who leads this network has already been a source of strength and advice to the network team through the recent changes. Maggie and Roger Ellis from Pioneer, who have a great track record of developing leaders and churches, will also be meeting regularly with Tim and Jayne. Tim has also asked Stuart Keiller from Bath City Church to provide advice and challenge. Closer to home, Tim has been meeting with Mac to benefit from his considerable wisdom.

Dave and Rhi Day

Some of you will already know that Dave and Rhi have recently decided to leave BCF. Particularly for those with a long history in BCF, this news

cannot be received without sadness. Dave led BCF with care and diligence for many years. For me and others involved in leading BCF through its recent changes, this was not what we hoped would happen. Looking to the future, we want God to bless Dave and Rhi and their work.

And finally...

In all of the difficulties and challenges, God sustains us with grace and fresh words of encouragement. In a way I have not known for many years, he is inspiring in so many of us a desire to listen, to pray and to be holy in every part of our lives. This is not the result of a clever plan or programme on our part, but the Holy Spirit working in every single believer. God, please keep speaking to us!

Andrew Price, on behalf of the network team

400th anniversary Bible reading

Joyce Lewis is passing on a request for volunteers

In connection with its 400th anniversary, there is to be a reading through of the King James Version (AV) of the Bible in Christchurch, Broad Street, in the city, during the week of 4 to 9 July. This is being organised by Fr. Richard Hoyal, the who has the charge of this church.

As this is a small congregation, he is looking for assistance, to volunteers from other churches who would be willing to take a slot, preferably if possible a group of several who would undertake together to cover a certain period. He asked me at a recent meeting if I would make this known wherever I could.

I understand that members of the public do drop in to the church for meditation or private prayer from time to time during the day.

He would very much like to hear from any who feel able to join in this event. He should be contacted by phone on 0117 970 6776 or by e-mail at richardhoyal@btinternet.com to arrange times.

The call to holiness

Pete Osborne



In Aardvark we are currently focusing on the issue of holiness. We feel that God has been prompting us to be more intentional in the way we live, and how our faith works itself out in our lives. It may seem obvious, but discipleship (another way of putting it) is often a step apart from the culture that creeps into the church. Our culture's barometer of how our lives are is based on feeling – do I feel good about my life? In my experience this has found its way into the church, where growing in faith and obedience can be overshadowed by our emotional state. Do I *feel* that my relationship with God is 'good' or not? It becomes less about growth and change, and more about maintaining that level of feeling. All sorts of things affect this – from the experiences we have, to the weather! Yet Paul talks about a maturity that means we will 'no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves', but instead will 'grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ' (Eph 4:14-15).

This kind of 'growing up' comes from dedication to God – being intentional in examining the different areas of our lives and asking God to speak into them. But when we look at the bigger picture we realise that the call to holiness is also a call to live wholeheartedly for God, so that others may come to know him. Israel was called a 'holy nation' (Ex 19:6) – set apart for the purposes of God in order that it would be a 'light to all nations' (Isaiah 49:6). Yet all too frequently this purpose escaped them, and the idea of being 'set apart' for God became a selfish end; a means of separating themselves from others and ultimately failing to be that light. Jesus repeats this call to us – 'no-one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand and it gives light to everyone in the house.' (Matt 5:15) Light stands in contrast to the darkness around it; but it also illuminates and drives out that darkness – its distinctiveness brings change. It should be the same for us. A call to maturity, to holiness, is not a call to exist in our own bubble, for our own sake; but to 'let our light shine before others, that they may see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven'.

Building project update

Cathy Knowles

Resound Building

The contract is signed and the schedule agreed, so work is about to begin! The start date is 6 June 2011, with completion on 3 February 2012. And the contract price is £1,177,634. (The May start was not possible.)

A good start-up meeting took place recently that included the site Manager, to ensure we are all ready for the start. There will be some ongoing design work during the build for things like the services and detailing, then on to the things that we all see, like surface finishes, colours etc. Soon after the start date, there will be a press release in conjunction with the contractor, so look out for a picture in the local paper, and more news and photos on the blog as work progresses.

<http://buildingresound.blogspot.com/>

Severn Ridge

The revised planning application for this site has now been submitted to South Gloucestershire council and the target decision date is 12 July 2011. Please pray that this will go smoothly this time.

Logs

Do you or your friends and family have a woodburning stove or open fire? If so, you'll probably want logs for the winter. There is still a pile of logs at Severn Ridge that need a home – the deal is a bootful of logs for a donation to BCF for the Resound project. (Some are not fully seasoned, so will need to be stored for a while.) Please contact Cathy if you'd like some.

Easy Fundraising

Another good way to raise money is to use easyfundraising.org.uk if you shop on line. They are connected to a huge list of retailers, like Amazon, Sainsbury's, John Lewis, Argos, Boots and loads more.

Family Forum

We have shared some headline info about the Resound building project recently at the BCF joint meeting and at Resound. If you would like to hear more about the project and its finances, there is an opportunity for this and an open discussion for questions on 21 June, 8 pm at Severn Ridge.

An update from Transition

Jesse Edbrooke

This past month we've been filming a documentary with Danny and Stef Roberts that we are hoping to get played back in the UK. It's all about Transition's story in Taiwan – the highly



unlikely story of a Bristol-based band moving to Asia, connecting in Taiwan and making an impact in the Far East. It's really about the miracles that God has done and the doors that he has opened for us. We have come to Taiwan with a positive attitude and tried to bless people here, but as is always the case, God seems to have blessed us far more than we can ever give out.

We did face quite a lot of opposition during the filming, but with God's help we managed to film some great stuff. We managed to play in the highest venue in Kaohsiung (a city of roughly 1.5 million people) interview the chief of culture, film music videos in the town of Kenting (southernmost town in Taiwan), play a tree planting event which the president and 15,000 other people attended (it sounds wacky... and it was!) and also interview some of the top musicians and producers here in Taipei. There were many more highlights, one of the best (not strictly Transition-related) was one of our friends who upon seeing baby Eden – Niall and Hannah's daughter – (for the third time) said "hey why is she wearing girl's clothes?"... then the truth dawned!

Danny and Stef have now returned back to the UK and have taken with them roughly 40 hours of video footage to edit down to 1 hour or so – they're going to be busy. Please pray for them as they edit the film – It would be great for them just to have God's inspiration as they sit in front of their screens for the foreseeable future!

You can see a new music video made on this trip, on Transition's YouTube page: www.youtube.com/user/transitionofficial

Thank you for your gifts!

We want to thank you for all the gifts so many of you have made to Bristol Christian Fellowship over the past financial year. It seems obvious to say, but we really couldn't continue to support all the people we do, or do all the things we do without you!

I have gift aid forms for lots of you which has enabled me to reclaim the tax paid on all your gifts. If you would like a gift aid statement, please let me know and I'll email/post one to you. (They are not automatically being sent out this year.)

Also, if you would like to change your giving amount, either contact your bank, or please ask me for a new form.

If you have any further questions, please call me, or e-mail me at cathyknowles@bcfnet.com

Cathy Knowles

Language Exchange

A French Christian couple from near Paris would like to invite two daughters of an English family to go and live with them for two weeks this summer any time between 1 July and 21 August. They are proposing after that their two daughters (16 and 18) come for two weeks to England similarly and be hosted in their turn.

The purpose of the exchange would be to improve their language skills and get to know Christians from another culture.

For further information contact Robert Jamet

Ian and Linda are moving on

We just wanted to let you all know that we are leaving BCF to focus on developing church in South Bristol where we live, and on supporting the work of The Bridge Trust. It has been a privilege to be involved in the church over many years, and we appreciate all the friends we have in BCF. No doubt we will still be seeing many of you in different situations. We will be praying that God will bless you all richly in all you are doing.

Ian and Linda Wilson



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BCF Diary June 2011

Sun 5	Resound Meeting	10.30 am	Barley Close School Worship meeting
Sun 5	Aardvark Family Meal	3.30 pm	The Ark
Wed 8	Indian evening	8.00 pm	Severn Ridge (see details below)
Sun 12	Resound Meeting	10.30 am	Barley Close School <i>Billy Kennedy</i>
Sun 12	Q&A with Billy Kennedy & Mac	3.00 pm	Downed Baptist Church, Salisbury Road
Sun 12	Aardvark	7.00 pm	The Ark <i>Worship evening</i>
Sun 19	Resound Meeting	10.30 am	Barley Close School <i>Tim Groves</i>
Sun 19	Aardvark	7.00 pm	The Ark
Tue 21	Family Forum	8.00 pm	Severn Ridge (see page 5)
Sun 26	Resound Meeting	10.30 am	Barley Close School <i>Stewart Keiller</i>
Sun 26	Aardvark	7.00 pm	The Ark

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Sun 3	Resound Meeting	10.30 am	Barley Close School
Sun 3	Aardvark	7.00 pm	The Ark <i>Worship evening</i>

Indian Evening – 8 June

Dave Day, Cara Medus and Ian Wilson recently went as a team to India. This evening is a chance to hear more about the trip and about the work that BCF members and others are supporting in India.

Severn Ridge 8 pm.

Caleb Year

Caleb Year won't be running this coming September: despite lots of people being interested in the idea, we don't have enough who want to do it this year. However, we (Dave, Neil and Linda) hope to run it in 2012/13, so if you are interested, please keep in touch and we will let you know how plans develop.

Entries for the July Bulletin by 21 June, 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)