



**BRISTOL  
CHRISTIAN  
FELLOWSHIP**

EQUIPPING CHRISTIANS  
TO BUILD CHURCHES  
TO CHANGE OUR WORLD

# BCF NEWS

March 2011

## Break camp and advance

Tim Groves

### **The network Team**

It is a joy to be leading the network team at this time, and I am thrilled by the contributions and wisdom given by Andrew Price, Pete Osborne, and Matt Sanderson. The team will be added to over the next few months as we continue to map out the way ahead, and explore a new model of team and peer accountability. The changes will also reflect our heart to fully endorse women in the role of leadership.

### **Communication**

We are reviewing all our communications including the bulletin and website. As an aside you may wish to check out the new resound website,

[www.resound-bristol.co.uk](http://www.resound-bristol.co.uk) which I hope you will agree looks and reads great. We will endeavour to capitalise



on the links between printed material and our online presence as we move forward.

### **God's word**

It is reassuring, in light of David Lawrence's talk on 20 February (check out the Resound podcast), that God issues timely encouragement. By way of illustration, at the beginning of the recent changes God spoke to us through Deuteronomy 1:6 *'You have stayed long enough at this mountain. Break camp and advance...'*

Eighteen months later and God has issued a new word, again from Deuteronomy, this time from chapter 12:9 *'...you have not yet reached the resting place and the inheritance the Lord your God is giving you. But you will cross the Jordan and settle in the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, and he will give you rest from all your enemies around you so that you will live in safety.'*

This word is particularly encouraging. For while it states we have yet to arrive, or to put it another way, yet to be where we anticipated we would be today, none the less, we will soon settle and find rest.

I'm encouraged because the promise of living in safety extends the Biblical metaphor of rest, speaking roundly of living under the influence of God's blessing. Here I would make a connection between this encouragement and those words/pictures which have announced blessing and fruitfulness sitting just out of view around the corner.

We have clearly broken camp and endured the pain and exhilaration that this involves. We have yet to enjoy the full benefits of such a decision. But that time is coming. A time of enjoyment is on its way. This is not to say that for some of us the future will include varying degrees of pain and heartache, but rather that we ought to prepare ourselves for the surprise of God's inheritance.

### **Worship**

Now is the time to worship – so goes the song. Rarely however does such a sentiment affect our church plans or strategies. We hope to change that. We will be looking at how worship can rejuvenate our joint gatherings, amongst other things.

### **Pledges**

Without stealing Cathy's thunder, can I say a big thank you to all who have committed to giving to the Resound building project. It's not too late to make a pledge for this coming year.

# What shapes our agenda?

Pete Osborne



Despite our best-laid plans, God seems to have his own agenda! Over the past few months, two themes that have emerged within Aardvark. Firstly we have had a focus on hearing God. At the heart of this is an understanding that it is our daily relationship with God which defines our capacity to live. It's less about a technique or mining bits of information; and more about the heartbeat of who we are – to live with our ears and eyes open to what God is saying and doing in and around us.

The second aspect is that of identity. Who are we? This isn't an introspective exercise in navel gazing, but a waking up to the reality of who God says we are – his children, his body. Why is this important? Because we need to learn how to live with this as the identity which defines us – not our past or our circumstances. As we walk in his world, in conversation and relationship with him; knowing that he has marked us out as his people – we live differently.

These themes together, have made me ask this question: Am I driven by my inbox, or by my relationship with God? In other words – is it the external that shapes my agenda – the requests of others, circumstances etc? Or is it the internal – that dialogue with God in the 'quiet places'. It's easy to be caught up in the momentum of life – all the things that need to be done, organised, finished. But I don't want those things to be the driving force in my life.

Stephen Covey says we have a circle of influence (things which we can have an effect on), and a circle of concern (things we worry about, but can't change). I think that 'circle of influence' has to start with ourselves. There are many things I could be concerned about; and the danger is that the wider I try to throw that net, the less likely I am to have an effect on what I can really influence. The more I think about all the other things I would like to be different, the less I may really be allowing God to change and mould me in his likeness.

It continues to be my hope – for myself, for Aardvark, and beyond – that we learn to walk in the reality of our identity in Christ; and our relationship with God, and that this defines all that follows and all we do.

# Building project news

Cathy Knowles project coordinator

## Resound Building

The discussions are still progressing well with the shortlisted contractor – the value engineering exercise has meant we've been presented with ideas that reduce the costs (and also suggested some ourselves). The ones we've agreed have been incorporated into the plans which will be available at one of the meetings in March. We are now really close to placing the contract.

A huge thank you for all the pledges this year – they now total £88,500. Pledges can still be made using the form on the bcf website.

For other updates see <http://buildingresound.blogspot.com/>

## Severn Ridge

Please continue to pray for the planning application progress – all is well so far. The progress can be followed on the South Gloucestershire planning [website](#), reference: PT11/0317/F.

## Gift Aid

When the government reduced the tax rate to 20% three years ago, this also affected the rate of gift aid that charities could claim. However, they generously allowed a 3 year transitional period when they continued to pay gift aid based on 22%.

Unfortunately this comes to an end on 5 April 2011, and Gift Aid will be based on the 20% tax rate from 6 April 2011.

If you are thinking of giving a gift soon, large or small, it would be really helpful if you made it before 5 April so that we can claim the higher rate of gift aid.

Don't forget – another good way to raise money is to use [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://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.

# Resound fundraising update

**Caroline Metz**

We continue to submit applications and research new trusts and foundations who might be sympathetic to our cause. We have recently had a fairly positive response from the Beatrice Laing Trust who are interested in our project and would like to discuss it further.



What a great result for the barn dance organised by Sarah and Nikki. It sounds like a good time was had by all and Cathy tells me it raised over £1,000.

The pledges total is amazing for this year. Please help us increase this figure still further by talking to your employer. Some employers, especially the larger ones, may consider matching the donations that their employees make to charity – it is definitely worth asking!

As we turn our attention to look at how we can secure support from local companies, we need your help. Do you work for a large local company or do you know someone who does? Having a “way in” through a contact always works better.

Thank you for your continued support and I hope to have more good news to report next month.

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## Mutende Children’s Village Zambia

**Paul Uttley** would like us to consider long-term commitment to supporting children at Mutende.

The problem with children is they grow, their needs become greater and every day they have to be fed. A gift helps to cover this, but how about committing to support a child in Mutende? 43 children need your help not just for today, but for years.



A small gift, every month can help secure the future of the children in Mutende. 100% of your gift goes to the work in Zambia. For more details contact Marian or Paul Uttley – [marian@schoolsmailing.co.uk](mailto:marian@schoolsmailing.co.uk)

# Mentoring in BCF

Mentoring is available on request. Mentoring provides an opportunity to explore, reflect and gain new perspectives.

Mentors are not counsellors but are trained to provide a confidential, encouraging relationship to help someone through a particular time of change. There is a choice of mentors whom you might meet with, although you can only be paired with a mentor of the same gender. For young people under 16, parental consent is needed. All mentors available to work with young people have been police checked.

On meeting a mentor, you will be asked what your goals are for future meetings, how many times you hope to meet, where and how often. Whilst this is a collaborative process, the responsibility for this always rests with the person being mentored.

If you need support but feel your difficulties go beyond the mentoring process, please talk to your group leader or one of the names below. We will endeavour to support you in finding an appropriate person or service that can help you move forward.

If you would like to enquire about mentoring please speak to:

- Resound – Christine Fulterer or Angie Davey
- Aardvark – Kayte Potter
- Thornbury – Mark Orrell

Following their recent house move, Tim and Jayne Groves have a new phone number which is available from the BCF office.

# STAND



“God is strong, and he wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. This is no afternoon athletic contest that we’ll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps”

**Ephesians 6 (The Message)**

## **BCF YOUTH WEEKEND APRIL 1ST - 3RD 2011**

**WOODCROFT CHRISTIAN CENTRE, CHEPSTOW**

Come and join us getting equipped and ready for a life with God. Our theme is the armour of God and how it is used to help us and each other in our daily lives as well as in tough times.

There’ll be lots of good food, surprise activities, team challenges, time to worship God, to learn more about him, to pray for each other and of course the annual Talent Show so bring all you’ll need for that!

Places are limited so please book soon. Deadline is the 18th March!

Booking forms are available from the Resound website, Thornbury blog and BCF website, or on request from [ruthmconnell@bcfnet.com](mailto:ruthmconnell@bcfnet.com)



## Bristol Christian Fellowship

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## BCF Diary March 2011

Sun 6	BCF South	11.00 am	The Wilsons'
Sun 6	Resound: Baptisms	3.00 pm	Hanham Baptist Church
Sun 6	Aardvark	7.00 pm	The Ark <i>Worship Evening</i>
Sun 13	Resound	10.30 am	Barley Close School <i>Worship Meeting</i>
Sun 13	Aardvark	7.00 pm	The Ark
Sun 20	BCF Joint Meeting	3.00 pm	The Ark
Sun 27	Resound	10.30 am	Barley Close School <i>Messy Church (Jon Bird)</i>
Sun 27	Aardvark	7.00 pm	The Ark

### April 2011

Sun 3	Resound	10.30 am	Barley Close School <i>Tim Groves</i>
Sun 3	BCF South	11.00 am	The Wilsons'
Sun 3	Aardvark	7.00 pm	The Ark

## Crossways Pre-School table top sale

**Saturday 7 May 10.00 am – 12.00 midday**

Crossways Pre-School will be holding a Table Top Sale to raise money for the New Resound Building. The Table Top Sale will be for Baby and Children's Equipment/Toys/Games/Books/Puzzles ONLY.

If you would like to sale your items at this event, please speak to Karen Mott. The cost of a Table will be £5, but you keep all the money you make (which could be a great way for you to raise money for Resound too).

Please come along to the event. Entry will be free, and you could find some great new things for your children.

Entries for the April Bulletin by 22 March, please. [bulletin@bcfnet.com](mailto: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)