



**BRISTOL
CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP**

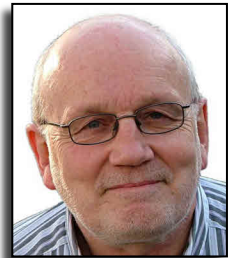
EQUIPPING CHRISTIANS
TO BUILD CHURCHES
TO CHANGE OUR WORLD

BCF NEWS

November 2010

A few simple thoughts

Dave Day



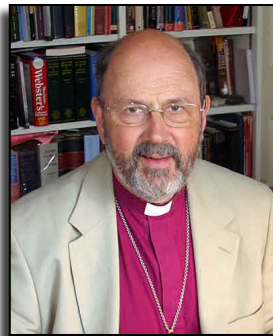
Tom Wright, until recently the Bishop of Durham, is an interesting character. The role of a Bishop is a demanding one and very time consuming. In the midst of his role, he has found the time to write many influential books. The more academic ones he writes under the name NT Wright and the more accessible ones using the name Tom Wright. His books are excellent and well worth reading. He has written a series of commentaries under the title *New Testament Guides for Everyone* which are very readable and accessible and worth using to help Bible Study. His *Surprised by Hope* and *Virtue Reborn* are also well worth reading. Whilst writing some long and meaty books, he has also produced a very small meditational book called *Quiet Moments* and I wanted to include a few of his thoughts from the book as I found them very simple, yet profound. I hope you enjoy them too!

Confession

- ❖ Is an act of faith, knowing that if I cast myself on God's mercy he won't let me drop.
- ❖ Because when you walk along the street, your feet get dusty, and it is good to wash them when you come into the house...
- ❖ Because you can't maintain a friendship if there's a mounting backlog of untold secrets

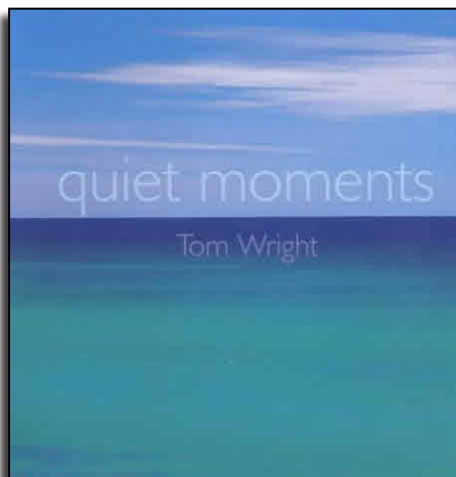
Prayer is

- ❖ Me being me in the presence of God being God
- ❖ God being God in me being me
- ❖ The most human thing we can do – and the most divine
- ❖ Prayer cleans the mirror in which I look at myself, so that I can see myself as others see me, or even (God help me) as God sees me.
- ❖ Prayer opens up the old wound which hasn't healed right, eases in the ointment, and helps it to heal at last.
- ❖ I pray because God always intended to bring humans in on the act.



Tom Wright

There are many more good quotes but I will leave it at that. As I was reading them, I was reminded that in all the time we have spent looking at change, we can forget the simplicity of our faith and relationship with God. The simplicity of our faith can be one of the most attractive aspects of it. *Quiet Moments* by Tom Wright is a good book, worth reading or getting someone for Christmas!



Mentoring

Angie Davey

As part of the changes taking place within BCF, Christine Fulterer, Ruth Price and myself have been reviewing the mentoring programme. Attendance at an evening presentation earlier in the year by Rick Lewis from Australia, and reading his book 'Mentoring Matters', gave us much to think about.

A huge amount of care and support from one to another happens within BCF and much of this might come under a heading of 'mentoring'. We value this as we continue to work out what it means to be 'relationship-based' one to another and to God our Father.

We have made a decision to keep the formal mentoring programme for those that request it. We hope that you will keep the availability of this in mind, not only for yourself but also as a suggestion for those that you feel might benefit.

Mentoring provides an opportunity to explore, reflect and gain new perspectives. Mentoring is not a place to be given answers to problems or to be told what to do.

Mentors are not counsellors but are trained to provide a confidential, encouraging relationship to help someone through a particular time of change. With potentially 25 mentors there is a choice of 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 would like to enquire about mentoring please speak to:

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

Aardvark

Emma Duncan



Since the beginning of September in Aardvark we have been looking at hearing from God – what does that mean? How do we do it? What effect would it have on our lives if we heard God’s voice clearly and were obedient?

Andrew was speaking about the fact that in the Old Testament (even before Dennis Bennett was born) there were only one or two prophets to the nation of Israel at any one time; they were often described as friends of God, or people who met with Him face to face. Now, because of the New Covenant, we are all able to live in the reality of a face-to-face relationship with God – how exciting and what a privilege! However, with great privilege comes great responsibility (not the original phrase, I know, but it fits). Living a life of close relationship with God means being obedient to His voice and living lives that reveal God’s heart to the world – being prophetic. I have found it really exciting and challenging to think about a church where each person is a prophet to this nation, this city, these people we know. Imagine if we had a church full of Isaiahs! Or Elishas! Or Moseses!

I have just moved house. I live with Elizabeth Bennett and Claire Van De Poll (if you don’t know them, shame on you – they’re amazing!) in a flat in Redland. One of the things we felt God was speaking to us about when we moved in was to live out something of the community we want to see in Aardvark and so we chose to live near people we know, near the Ark, and also somewhere big enough to have people round to eat and hang out with us. We prayed on our first night in the flat that it would always be a place of refuge for people, that it would feel welcoming and comfortable, and that we would never run out of food or people to feed. Be careful what you pray for! We have had a steady stream of people since we moved in at the beginning of October (over 30 one weekend alone!!) which has been amazing!

One of my prayers for our house, for Aardvark, and for BCF as a whole, is that we can clearly discern the word of God and live it out – say yes; even if it makes our lives more hectic, more complicated, more generous, more challenging! I love the verse in Exodus 33 where Moses refuses to go anywhere if God doesn’t go with them. I pray that we will know God’s presence with us as we journey together and that we will follow willingly and outrageously the paths he has for us!

My Aardvark family

Roanna Price

I'm afraid I'm breaking the cardinal rule of Journalism and disobeying my editor. However in order to write this piece with integrity I must not, as asked, write a profile of Aardvark members but instead give way to some more general ramblings. At least I know you have to forgive me.

My church history has always been very rich. Firstly being the daughter of two passionate leaders is a good start and being part of, initially, a worship hungry church in Cardiff and then BCF, my church life has always been inspiring. There is however one part of my church history that stands out above the rest and that is my time spent at Aardvark. What started as a student filled, laid-back, worship heavy meeting has evolved and I think progressed to a jumble of graduates, BCF old timers and newbies. Witnessing this journey has been frustrating, exciting and always challenging. Being part of Aardvark provides support, community and a predisposition to a life of worship that I haven't found anywhere else.

Now I am studying up in Liverpool I am sharply aware of how rare a find a church like Aardvark is. I pray that those still able to attend will treasure it and be committed.

Being the target of some intense spiritual attack recently I popped down to Bristol at the end of September to spend time reconnecting with my Family and re-establishing my identity as a child of God, meeting once again as a member of Aardvark was integral to this.

Its meetings may be on the tardy side and it is desperately under-resourced, but God delights in it. My prayer for Aardvark is that it will continue to let God shake it and that those part of it will wholly and impatiently seek the Holy Spirit.

Youth weekend 2011

Ruth McConnell



Cast your mind back to last April when a group of young people ventured to deepest darkest Chepstow to learn more about the Imprints that are on their lives and the Imprint they have on the world around them.

You can see in the panel below what Jancis Edbrooke thought of it.

This year we are going back to the same venue for another weekend of fun filled games, time to think about God and our walk with him and of course, lots of excellent food!

So put in your diary the 1st to the 3rd April for the Youth Weekend 2011 and watch this space for how to book!!

“What can I say? Another classic weekend away. Brilliant food, brilliant music, brilliant teaching. A huge thanks to Dave and Fran for their new, fun and interesting team challenges – ingenious night wide games and water transportation. (My team won of course.) Emma outdid herself again with lovely food and I feel that many of us left for home a little rounder than when we arrived!

I think I speak for all of us when I say that it was a lot of fun interacting with new folks – leaders and youth. There were several epic pool matches and a very violent game of spoons, which I may or may not have rigged... It was awesome getting to know the other members of our teams (and dorms) through the duties and team tasks.

The style was a little different to

the previous year, as an old and wise member of BCF youth, it was great to have an element of the unexpected. The weekend format worked really well and we all loved it. Lots of credit to Ruth!

It was definitely a weekend that inspired us and in which God was speaking. The word ‘IMPRINT’ can have many different implications. One of them that we focused on was ‘what imprint will we leave?’ It was a meaningful weekend and God spoke to me in particular about our self inflicted marks.

Thanks to all the leaders, Tim and Jane Groves + kids. A GIGANTIC thanks to Ruth who lead a fun and memorable weekend away – thank you for your new ideas! We all loved cooking a different style of breakfast over the fires and perhaps, in my case, in the fires...” (Jancis)



Change of address
Paul & Chloe Banks

Paul and Chloe have moved and the BCF office has their new address.

New phone number
Mike & Sarah Bennett
(available from office)

(We don't usually publish private addresses and phone numbers in the online edition of BCF News.)

Building project update

Cathy Knowles project coordinator reports that significant progress is being made.

Blackhorse/Resound site

I'm pleased to report that the project is on track and interviews with 5 contractors took place at the end of October. We are now awaiting their prices for the build.

All the necessary surveys and arrangements for the utilities have been carried out, ready for the demolition – this is now set for 8 November. Neil will be taking some photos and we hope to get a slot in the Evening Post to mark this significant milestone.

Now that we are having detailed discussions with potential builders, the reality of seeing our exciting new building feels much closer!

Severn Ridge

After exploring several options, a planning application will be submitted for two separate building plots on the site, one adjoining No. 29 and one to the rear.

Once the application is approved, it can then be sold. This will provide a major part of the funds needed to build the Resound centre.

Please pray that the process will be smooth and that the council grant permission as easily as they did for the Resound building.

Café Oasis

The sale of Café Oasis has now been completed.

Ian Pengelly and team have done a wonderful job of clearing the property. Quite a lot of the kitchen equipment has been bought by the Staple Hill Breadbasket which is run by some from the Sanctuary, so it has gone to a good home.

Fundraising update

Caroline Metz



As many of you know, I recently joined BCF as the Fundraiser for the Resound Project. Having had many years' experience fundraising for charities both in the UK and overseas, I am focusing primarily on trusts and foundations, but will soon turn my attention to companies.

Thank you for all your support so far, the good news is we have started to see some success and have already received two trust donations. However, there's still a long way to go and it's very competitive out there.

If any of you have contact with trusts or can influence someone within a large company, please don't keep it to yourself, let me know and I will be happy to talk to them further.

Look out for more updates..... next time I will be telling you where we are sending Tim in an effort to raise funds....!

Best wishes and I hope to meet some of you soon.

One of Caroline's first suggestions was that we register with easyfundraising.org to generate some free donations for the project. BCF is now registered on the website, and whenever we shop on-line, just go via this site, select BCF as the chosen charity and a percentage of any spending will be sent to BCF. (Some retailers even make a donation when you first sign up on their site e.g. Which?, Love Film, eBay)

Tell your friends & family too and help us raise more!

Log onto www.easyfundraising.org.uk/ and remember to start here before you shop each time.

This is me

Pam introduces herself

I have been going to church now for a couple of months. I was in a really bad place in my life, where I didn't know what I was doing or where I was going.

I have always believed in God and his power of love and strength. I kept on praying that something good would turn up.

Then one day there was a knock on the door and there was Ruth McConnell. I opened the door with an attitude – 'who is this'. Ruth said 'would I like to come over to their house for dinner'. My defensive reaction was 'why what for' Ruth replied 'to be friendly'. I ummed and ahhed but eventually said yes.

I shut the door and thought 'what is going on'. For the first time in a long time I got dressed. I went over and had dinner listened and observed. I was not sure if I was being set up for another fall.

As it turned out the meal was lovely and they were really friendly. I then plucked up the courage to ask if I could go to church with them. I went to Lyndsey-Ruth's church and was welcomed. I enjoyed it very much and knew this is what I was supposed to be doing.

I then went to BCF Resound and sat at the back with Fran. The first people who spoke to me were Bridget and Roger Bennett; they made me feel very comfortable.

While sitting there and singing I finally felt that belonging. Over a period of time the emptiness I was feeling was gradually disappearing. I was scared it was all going to go away and once again be let down. I prayed again and again and each week went by and nothing happened – nothing was going to go wrong. I finally got it, I was waking up not able to wait to go to church, thanking God every day that he gave me the love and guidance that I needed.

Since going to church I have felt fulfilled, I have not felt that much love in one room. I have cried and laughed. I finally felt comfortable in what I believed in. I used to be scared to go outside my front door, but now I hold my head high knowing I have the faith, support and love of God my creator.

Luke 4 verse 42: I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God in the other towns too because this is why I was sent

John 10 verse 25: I have already told you, and you don't believe me, the proof is the work I do in my father's name

For the first time I can actually be myself. The other day in church we were asked to pick someone out whom we have not spoken to. I didn't know what to do and was asking myself what I should do. Once again Roger Bennett came up to me and started talking to me about stuff, once again I immediately felt relaxed. Bless Roger Bennett.

I actually believe I am meant to spread the Lord's word, and my body and soul is for people to meet and connect to find where they are meant to be, like he did for me. That's me doing God's work.

I believe God saved me.

I believe he answered my prayers when I was at my lowest and told me it is time to get up and wake up.

God is the only one who can judge and we are all his children so every day I love, respect and cherish him.

I would like to thank God for sending me Bridget and Roger Bennett, Lindsey-Ruth, Fran, Ruth and most of all Tim and BCF. God Bless you all.

Sunday 5 December 2010 7.30 pm Bristol Cathedral
Special evangelistic Celebration of Christmas

This will be an incredible opportunity to
prepare for Christmas with friends and family.

Admission is free.

As this is a very popular event
please come early to be sure of a seat.

BDWE (International) Ltd

Alan and Vivienne Cable

We felt it was about time for an information update for those who have supported the idea of BDWE for years and for those who would like to know more. When the Zambian folk were asked to name our new first attempt at establishing a small, sustainable business in Africa they came up with B'DWE (Bristol Developing World Enterprise) we thought it was cute; we now think it was prophetic.



In our UK base we now employ 13 people (formerly long term unemployed), provide placements for up to 10 unemployed people on 3 months work placements, and provide work for a changing number of people doing unpaid work with the probation service. We ship 40 ft containers to Zambia, Kenya, The Gambia, Benin, Pakistan (2 customers) and the possibility of starting in India and a book contact in China. We ship ex-charity shop goods (everything except clothing), goods given by local businesses and goods donated by individuals. We have two vans so we can collect locally. When they arrive at their destinations the goods go to small businesses who then sell them, providing employment and income to individuals and a boost to the local economy.

We have nearly 100,000 books listed for sale on the internet (Amazon, Play, Alibris and Abe), and ship around 250 books each day to customers all over the world. If you need books let us have a list and we will see what we can do. The income from the books, along with some short term government funding is how we fund the UK side of the enterprise.

It has been exciting to see God's hand in the growth of the business and in the people he has brought to us. Please pray that He will open up some more African contacts and that Alan continues to have the opportunity to talk to our young men about spiritual matters.

The original idea behind B'DWE (to help fund Mutende) has begun to

happen although not quite as we saw it. B'DWE Zambia has taken on the running of the Mutende chickens (so that they can have a properly run business to help with the funding) and to provide IT training to staff and children at the orphanage.

If you would like to visit the UK Warehouse just let us know and please visit our new website at www.bdwe.org

Crisis Centre Ministries

Crisis Centre Ministries is a Christian run charity that helps the homeless and those with addiction problems on the streets of Bristol, our mantra being: "Bringing God's grace and love to those with life disrupting problems in Bristol." We have been well supported over the years by many churches and volunteers across Bristol and thank them all warmly for their support. This has meant we have been able to buy and renovate a new centre (the old 'Queen Vic' pub on Stapleton Road) which will be opening in November to better help our clients off the streets of Bristol.

To give you an idea of how we help people, we serve hot meals twice a day (we serve around 1,500 a week, 64,000 a year) and assist people into supported accommodation and rehabilitation (last year we helped over 400 into supported accommodation and 188 into rehabilitation) out of the 'Wild Goose Café' on City Road. We also concurrently run the LITE course which is to help build up initial life skills for people off of the streets of Bristol.

Because of the nature of our ministry we depend on volunteers, and with the move to larger premises we need more volunteers to help run our daytime and evening sessions. We hope in the new building we will be able to open all day and not need to shut, meaning we can keep people off the streets for longer!

If you are interested in volunteering or helping the Crisis Centre in some way, please contact jonathan@crisis-centre.org.uk or phone 07901 336 136. We also have opened, in conjunction with Alabaré, a 2nd hand furniture store in Clevedon which is, through God's grace, working fantastically well and if you have any second hand furniture you wish to donate please contact shop@changinglivesinclivedon.co.uk or call 01275 877 745. (We can collect.)

India update

Ian Wilson

I recently came back from my latest visit to India. Both Dave Day and I go most years and help with a leaders' conference for the churches there led by Jey and Lizzie. This year, at the last minute, Dave was unable to come because he had to go to New Zealand for Raewyn Winnie's funeral. Fortunately, Sean Fettig, who was also a



member of the team, was able to take on a lot of the teaching that Dave would have done. We also had 4 people from Christ the Rock church in Yate with us. (Of course we kept wishing Dave were there!)

The conference this year was in Siliguri, West Bengal – some BCFers will know Daniel and Ruth Lepcha, who lead the church there. When BCF sold its building at Soundwell, we gave away a tithe of the proceeds and half went to help build a new church building in Siliguri. This was formally opened and dedicated while we were there – Dave had been expected to do the dedication, but in the end Jey had to do it.

The new building is a great place for the church to meet, and already they are thinking of expanding into a plot of land they have been able to buy at the back of it.



As always, we had a really good time. It's always stretching and fulfilling to have to get on with things that we don't always do at home. Among other things, I met a fellow taxman! Matthew Sherpa is deputy commissioner of income tax in Siliguri, and part of Daniel and Ruth's church. Every time I go to India I feel more joined to fellow believers there – it is great that BCF's overseas links can be based on friendship

Au revoir

Brian and Edwina Smith



After more than a year of uncertainty, of feeling unsettled, God has confirmed to Edwina & I that it is time to move on. We are not leaving Bristol, as far as we know, but our time with BCF has come to an end.

In much the same way as when he told us that our previous church of 25 years, Fishponds Baptist, was no longer our spiritual home, he has told us we are to move out but hasn't told us our destination yet. We have been members of this lively, exciting fellowship for almost 20 years and the leaving will not be easy, but as the scripture quoted in the last bulletin said "You have stayed long enough at this mountain. Break camp and advance." Deut 1:6-7.

We have so much to be thankful to BCF for, and life would be very different for us if we hadn't joined you. We wouldn't be living in the lovely house God put us into, we wouldn't have three wonderful honorary grandsons, work for both of us would be very different as we would never have encountered Jubilee Property and we wouldn't have met so many of you who have encouraged, challenged and believed in us and enabled us to grow spiritually. But most of all our spiritual position would be so different.

Through the church's involvement with the Toronto Blessing and its outworking in Telford we were introduced to a whole new dimension of our faith. It opened our eyes to a more radical supernatural realm, to a God who doesn't conform to our preconceived ideas of normal Christian life. More recently, through visits to Revival Fires and messages downloaded from many well-known speakers, God has been challenging us to step out and expect more.

Whilst I have been more focused on this and have been more active in pursuing all that God is doing, Edwina is most certainly with me on this journey and she knew before me that now was the time to leave. It will be difficult to say farewell as we have become accustomed to meeting with you on a regular basis. But the decision to split BCF into three parts has helped our decision as we have become used to seeing some of you far less frequently already, yet still remain friends when we do meet. This will just be an extension of that process.

We do hope that you will feel able to call us, to drop in, or even just follow what God is doing with us through Facebook, or my blog, Barefoot Wanderings – <http://brians-barefoot-wanderings.blogspot.com/>



Bristol Christian Fellowship

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BCF Diary November 2010

Sun 7	Resound meeting	10.30 am	Barley Close School <i>Paul Collins: Mark 13</i>
Sun 7	BCF South	11.00 am	Worship and Lunch (Ian and Linda Wilsons')
Sun 7	Aardvark	7.00 pm	The Ark <i>Tim Groves</i>
Sun 14	Resound: messy church	10.30 am	Barley Close School <i>Jon Bird</i>
Sun 14	BCF Thornbury	4.00 pm	BCFT in the Hackett
Sun 14	Aardvark	7.00 pm	The Ark <i>Worship evening</i>
Sun 21	Resound meeting	10.30 am	Barley Close School <i>Tim Groves: Mark 14</i>
Sun 21	Aardvark	7.00 pm	The Ark <i>Jeremy Carruthers</i>
Sun 28	Resound meeting	10.30 am	Barley Close School <i>Worship meeting</i>
Sun 28	BCF Thornbury	4.00 pm	BCFT in the Hackett
Sun 28	Aardvark	7.00 pm	The Ark
Tue 30	Aardvark Family Thing	7.00 pm	The Ark

December 2010

Sun 5	Resound meeting	10.30 am	Barley Close School <i>Neil Edbrooke: Mark 15</i>
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 5	Celebration of Christmas	7.30 pm	Bristol Cathedral

Next joint BCF meeting
Sunday 9 January 3 pm
Thornbury Baptist Church Centre
Hosted by BCF Thornbury.
Billy Kennedy and David Lawrence will be joining
us to pray for the new leadership team.

Entries for the December Bulletin by 23 November, please.

bulletin@bcfnet.com

BCF News is edited by Ian Wilson.

Read it online: www.bcfnet.com/resources/BCF_News