

## Lancashire Festival of Hope

Billy Graham's one purpose in life was to help people find a relationship with God that comes only through knowing Jesus Christ. He was called home to be with his Lord in February of this year. His legacy has been taken up by his son Franklin who, just like his father, passionately reminds us there is an urgency to share the gospel message because once we leave this world we don't get another chance. Together we must use every opportunity to take the power of the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

After much planning and preparation an event, that had been surrounded by much controversy, took place over the weekend of Friday 21st, Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd September 2018. It was a weekend I shall remember with such joy and thankfulness all my life, until God finally calls me home. Many people from our church family were involved in praying and working tirelessly in different ways. It was so encouraging to be part of a wider family of believers from all over Lancashire who shared one thing in common, the desire to see people won for the Lord Jesus Christ and lives changed forever. It was a privilege and a great blessing to be in the Blackpool Winter Gardens as Franklin Graham preached the Gospel message in such a clear and simple way and to witness hundreds of people from all ages and all walks of life respond to the call and commit their lives to the Lord.

Luke 15:7 reminds us "I tell you that there is great rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents". I am certain there was a great party of rejoicing and celebration going on in Heaven over that weekend!

Yet this is only the beginning. We now have new Christians in our own church family. Our job is to encourage them, support and befriend them so they grow in maturity and are able to reach out to others with the Good News of Jesus. The weekend is over but the work never is. We still have a Gospel to proclaim – how exciting! I pray we will all do our part so when we finally stand before our Lord in glory we will hear the words "well done my good and faithful servant". Matt 25:23

Karen Swift

18<sup>th</sup>  
NOV

### Bible Sunday

Morning Services | Church Building  
We look forward to Bishop Julian joining us at our services.

*Please be praying for these events and invite friends and family along!*

22<sup>nd</sup>  
NOV

### Ladies Christmas Crafts

7.30pm | Church Building  
Relaxed evening of making crafts & a great chance to invite your friends along to hear about Jesus.



4<sup>th</sup>  
DEC

### Hush Before The Rush, Ladies' Carol Service

7.45pm | Church Building  
A quiet evening of song, readings & reflections.

5<sup>th</sup>  
DEC

### Good News Group Carol Service

5.45pm | Church Building  
A great celebration of Christmas, for adults with learning disabilities.

## Still Sending Missionaries Overseas?

In today's world, there are growing numbers of mission agencies based not in the traditional Christian heartlands of the Western world, but in the so-called 'global south'. South America, Eastern Europe and Central Asia are all now sending out their own missionaries. Factor in the expense of sending Western missionaries, not to mention the amount of gospel work still to do here on our own doorstep, and we may wonder why we ought to be sending missionaries at all?

Well, here are some good reasons that ought to encourage us to never surrender the privilege of sending and supporting cross-cultural missionaries from our own congregations.

### **1. This is God's plan all along**

In Elijah's day, while there was plenty of spiritual darkness in Israel, nevertheless God sent his worker to a foreign land, to Zarephath. It was quite some distance away. Why would He do such a thing? Elijah had no shortage of work to do at home in Israel, yet God sent him to another nation to spend two years witnessing to one pagan woman and her son. This is the history of missions down the ages. It seems the Lord is less concerned about efficiency and cost-benefit analysis than we are. He is driving an outgoing, expansive, generous, nation-reaching mission even in the worst of times.

### **2. Churches who give also receive**

Churches who give sacrificially towards foreign missions often themselves experience revival. Many people told John Paton, a 19th-century Scottish pastor, that he was far too valuable to the Scottish church to risk losing his life in overseas mission. He went anyway, reaping a great harvest overseas. Perhaps even more significant was the effect on the churches that sent him and that experienced revival. This is paradoxical gospel logic. There is great blessing for sending churches.

### **3. Cross-cultural missions is a powerful means of growth for the missionary**

God uses many means to grow his people, including overseas mission. The experience of leaving your home country leaves its mark in spiritual strength, godliness and perseverance. Why is this? The risk and uncertainty forces you to rely on The Lord. You come to a greater understanding of being an alien in this world (1 Peter 2:11). The unique stresses and insecurities can reveal the depths of your own heart and the amazing grace of Jesus Christ. Encountering other expressions of your faith force you to re-examine your own thinking and living; what is genuine core Christianity and what is culture.

### **4. We need each other**

Like blood circulating around the body it is healthy for Christians to circulate around the body of the church. Each will be simultaneously strong and weak in different ways - the goal is mutual encouragement. Some mutual learning can happen at a distance but there is nothing like living and working together in gospel ministry. Much learning and growth takes place as people of different cultures interact and serve.

### **5. The unreached**

'Unreached' people groups are those that have no self-sustaining local church to reach out to them. If no-one intentionally goes and shares the gospel with them they will never hear. How are unreached peoples to hear the gospel if no-one who speaks their language tells them about Jesus? Missionaries need to be sent - in order to learn languages, and to live amongst the unreached so as to reach them. The job is not done. We still need to send preachers but also nurses and engineers, teachers and even baristas and surfers, so that all peoples everywhere might find their joy in Him. *SEND Task Team*

## Leyland in Bloom



In October, St. Andrew's won 1st Prize in the Church Gardens section of the 2018 Leyland in Bloom Competition. The fact that we won meant that we were also automatically entered in to the South Ribble in Bloom Competition - which we also won!

Our sincere thanks go to our Community Payback Team and our wonderful team of Garden Ladies - without all their hard work the garden around the church hall would not look as lovely and we would not have achieved this. Our shield from the Leyland in Bloom Competition and trophy from South Ribble in Bloom, are going to live in the Church office if you would like to see them.