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Evangelist in Training
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Good day to you one and all,

Well, it feels like many a moon has passed since I last wrote to you. A fortnight proves longer than one imagines. Being in Northern Ireland for 10 days makes life appear to have travelled slower – probably because I did so much there. But Autumn is upon us, and the end of the year draws ever nearer – even Christmas is in sight now (Carol Services and the like are already on the calendar). So without any further ado...

The Dungannon Diaries

The trip to Northern Ireland was my first official mission this year, and I absolutely loved it. The mission was called 'Real Stories, Real Lives, Real Hope' and was organised by the Dungannon Methodist Circuit (a group of four Methodist churches). Both Sundays involved evangelistic guest services at all four churches. The churches have different numbers of attendees (approx 130, 80, 20, 15) so there is wide variety of opportunities. Each evening during the week we had our main meeting at 8pm which involved some live music, followed by Roger doing an interview with the evening's guest and then Roger would speak for about 30 minutes. The guests included David Blevins (ex-Sky News reported), Professor Norman Nevins (Professor Emeritus of Medical Genetics at Queens University, Belfast) plus others. We saw many non-believers come along who heard the gospel from both the testimonies and Roger's talks. Many ladies in the church got their husbands to come along which was very exciting. There were also coffee mornings, school assemblies and a men's breakfast. So loads of people, both young and old got to hear about the gospel. On our drive back home on Monday morning (after a ferry from Belfast to Stranraer, Scotland) we heard that one of the husbands gave his life to Jesus late Sunday night. Praise God! Roger and I were hoping to see more visible fruit but please pray that the seeds planted and those which grew would end up in a fruitFUL harvest. Pray that the churches would use this week as a spur to continue in their evangelism.

With regards to the talks and groups I was leading, all went really well. Thank you so much for your prayers. I spoke at the two smaller churches on both Sundays, as well as giving a primary school assembly and leading a few youth groups. These, especially the preaching at the churches, were really challenging as it was a new experience for me. But God really helped me to prepare and to speak. The talks are available on my website for those interested in listening to my first stab at evangelistic preaching. If you do listen, I would really love any feedback that you may have. Try to imagine how you would have felt if you had brought a non-Christian friend along. But please don't feel you have to listen.

Back To School

There seem to many opportunities popping up for some schools work. Paul (the Pastor at church here) is trying to get us into as many schools as possible to share the gospel. This morning Paul and I went into the primary school here in Drighlington to take part in a year 3 (7-8 year olds) RE (Religious Education) lesson. This went really well as Paul told the story of Noah and how God rescues us, and I got to share my testimony. Paul will be doing this again tomorrow too. There are also possibilities to do some assemblies in the near future too, at both primary and secondary schools. I am also going to be speaking at

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a local primary school's Carol Service in December. This will be a great opportunity to share the gospel to both the kids in the school and their parents who will come along. Please pray for these opportunities because schools work can be quite delicate with some restrictions on what can be said. Pray too that I will be able to relate the gospel to this wide variety of age groups.

Hit The Road Jack

The rest of October is a busy month for me. I will be at three consecutive mission weeks, the first two with churches and the final one at a university. Here are the dates:

Church mission in Leicester: Sunday 7th – Sunday 14th October

Church of England Mission, The Wirral: Wednesday 17th – Sunday 21st October

Anglia Ruskin University Mission, Cambridge: Monday 22nd – Friday 26th October

I'm not entirely sure what I'll be doing at these missions. But whatever I do, please pray that God would work through his gospel being proclaimed. Pray that he would be convicting people of their sins and bringing them to the foot of the cross. Pray that whatever I come to do, that could would enable me to do it – whether that be preaching, kids work, or just chatting to someone about the gospel one-on-one (my favourite type). Please pray too for energy as after the week in Northern Ireland, I was exhausted so for these three weeks, I need his strength (as I do for all things anyway).

It's a great privilege to be part of so many missions. I get to see lots of different ways of doing things and to see things that work and things that don't work so well. Pray that I would be able to absorb all things that I may use them in the future for whatever God has in store for me.

I think the thing that I've been learning most about over the past fortnight is what it means to be a man of God. Don't get me wrong – I've only just begun to look at this but it is so amazing. God has created me, Andy Giles, as a man. He didn't just create me as a generic human, but as a man, to serve him as a man and to have the qualities of a man. I'm hearing and reading quite a lot about being a husband and a father – both of which I'm really excited about being...eventually. But also, I'm beginning to realise how the role of man has been distorted in society and how God wants men to actually live. And I think one of the aspects God is challenging me with most is in the role of prayer. I always seem to be banging on about prayer – but it's something that God keeps trying to get me to do more of. I've always had the attitude that women are better pray-ers where as men are better study-ers of the bible. I don't know why – but that's the stereotypes I've had. But again, God keeps calling me to be a man of prayer – and I really want that. I'd love to be able to commune with God on a deeper level than just asking for things. I'm finding it really hard to express my thoughts – so please pray that I would grow in my prayer life and that I would delight in praying and spending time with God in that way. Pray that my praying wouldn't just be restricted to my quiet times but that I would really be able to “pray continually”.

Thanks again for your prayers – and please do write to me, I love to receive stuff!!!

In our mighty redeemer, Jesus Christ,

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