

ANDY GILES

EVANGELIST IN TRAINING

PRAYER UPDATE: 9TH MAY 2008



www.associationofevangelists.org

Hello estranged praying folk,

Let's start off with an apology! Sorry it's been so long since I last wrote an update like this. I looked back at the last one and it was written on March 17th just after I'd finished all the university missions which seems like decades ago. But the past two months have been pretty hectic with various events and weeks away and some strange things too. So without further ado...

RECAP

March 20-24: Easter Speakout

I spent the Easter weekend in Southport, Lancashire doing a weekend of open air preaching with Vinny and team of about 50 teenagers. It was fantastic. I was leading a team of about 15 and we had some great opportunities to proclaim Christ over the weekend. I had several opportunities to get up and speak to the streets of Southport and many of the young people got up and shared testimonies and a couple actually had a go at giving a short talk. My favourite moment was when I got to chat to an older gentleman called John. He had been sat listening to the open air for a while and one of the team had given him a tract to read. I got chatting to him and I had the great privilege of explaining the whole gospel to him. It all seemed to be making sense to him for the first time when I explained when Christ died on the cross, he died as our substitute. I told him that he needed to repent and trust in Christ and he seemed close but he didn't do it there on the street. I showed him how to pray and how he could ask Jesus to forgive him when he was ready. And then he left. I have no idea what he did – so please pray for him. But praise God because this was one of hundreds of opportunities that were had by the team over the weekend.



Some of my team by the Southport Fairground



Noddfa Evangelical Church, Pont.

March 25-28: Pontarddulais Kids Club

After the speakout, Vinny and I (along with Seth, a guy from Vinny's youth group) drove down to Pontarddulais, South Wales (the "dd" is pronounced "th" – its Welsh) to help lead a kids club during the Easter holidays. We got about 60 kids each day and many of them (mainly girls) made a response to Christ. The exciting thing was that one of the teenage girls from the church, called Eleri (pronounced "E-layer-ree"), who was helping out each day became a Christian at the end of the week after hearing the gospel each day. Praise God!

April 1-4 Drighlington Kids Club

The following week there was another kids club but this time it was at my church in Drighlington, Leeds. It was pirate themed and so there were many cries of "YARR" from myself. We got along about 30 kids each day and had a great time. I don't recall us seeing any commitments but most of the kids that came along were regular attendees at our weekly kids club. In the evenings of the week, we also ran a soccer school for kids aged 9-12. We got about 12 kids along to this each night. A couple of the older ones came

along to our Friday night youth group and the following week they came back and invited all their friends. The youth group on Friday nights has grown from about 12-15 kids to about 30-35 kids. Praise God for this because this is exactly what we hoped would happen through the soccer school. Pray they would keep coming and that they would understand the gospel.

April 5: Southport Shenanigans

Saturday April 5th saw me travel over to Southport to speak at Vinny's youth group in the evening. He called me that morning and asked if I wanted to do a couple of other things in the afternoon. So I went over at lunchtime and joined in the bi-monthly open air work in Southport. Vinny and I then jumped on a train to Aintree and went to the Grand National. We didn't go to see the horses, we went to see the crowds with a big banner saying "John 3:16 = Life". I was a bit sceptical at first thinking that people would just think we're weird. Many people probably did think that but we also got to chat to loads of people about what John 3:16 said and we also gave out loads of tracts. If you see a video of the steeplechase (available at YouTube.com) then watch the 1st and 16th fence jumps closely. If you look at the far side of the fence, there's a small orange banner waving about – that's us :-D



Vinny at Aintree – look at the crowd!



The Youth Group – I'm sat next to Matt

April 11-13 Youth Weekend

After the following week spent preparing, I headed to Ashborne, Derbyshire to speak at a youth weekend away being held there by a church from Derby. There were 11 young people in all and we had a great weekend. I had four sessions to speak at and we looked at what Jesus resurrection means to us today. The weekend was one of my highlights of the year. We had such a great time and the young people really seemed to get a deeper understanding of the gospel.

We can praise God because one young lad there, called Matt, became a Christian. Please pray as he was expecting that he was going to get a lot of stick at school for becoming a Christian and not living as the world does. Pray too for Andy and Wendy, who lead the group usually – that they would teach the young folk more about Jesus.

April 14-18 Knight's Quest Kids Club

I then travelled to Oakwood, North London to be involved with the Easter kids club that St. Thomas' Church was holding. John Newton-Webb was leading the main sessions. By the name, you can probably guess that it was medieval themed and we saw about 120 kids come each day which was great. We had games, songs, and a bible story all together each day and that we split up into age groups to look more at the bible story of the day and to play other games and do some crafts. I, along with a couple of other leaders, was looking after a group of about twelve 4-6 year olds who were tiny. I was like a giant to them – but then I guess I am compared to most people. My group were great fun and they seemed to really understand that it was Jesus who got in trouble with God so that we don't have to. It was amazing!

Other events

- During the week beginning the 21st April, York St. John University Christian Union ran a mission week which Nick Howard was speaking at. I had the opportunity to help out during the Tuesday and Wednesday. We saw a few non-believers coming to the events which was great. Pray for the CU there, that they would be bold in reaching out to their non-Christian friends and that they would be faithful in doing this throughout the whole year, not just during mission week.

- On April 27th I had the privilege of speaking at both the morning and evening services at Moorside Church, Drighlington. It was a great learning experience for me. The two talks are available at my website, so if you get a chance you can have a listen and please feel free to send me any feedback.
- On May 3rd I was speaking at a inter-church youth group in Leeds. I was asked to do an overview of the bible in 20 minutes (I took 30). It was a challenge to prepare but I think the young folk got a deeper understanding of the bible storyline and how it all points to Jesus and his sacrificial death on the cross.
- I've also been able to be at home on more Sunday evenings over the past few weeks so I've been able to run the after church youth group at my house. I really enjoy this and the young people I have to work with are great. They all seem to really understand the gospel but some have heard it lots and lots of times and are yet to make any response. Please pray that the truths of the gospel would land deep in their hearts and that they would grow to love Jesus with their whole being. I've started meeting up one-to-one with one of the young people called Pete. We have a great time together and are going through John Piper's book called "Don't Waste Your Life". Please pray that as Pete and I continue to meet up together that I would be able to be an encouragement to him in his faith and that he would get more excited about living his whole life for Jesus.

As you can see, the past couple of months have been pretty busy. You may be wondering if I ever get a break. Well, guess what...

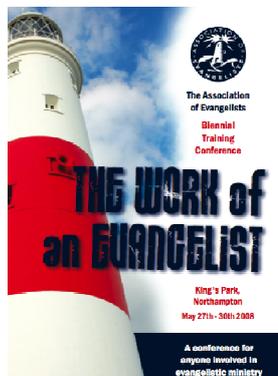
Holiday!!!

On Sunday (11th May) I head to the sunny state of California for two weeks. You may think that this is a bit of a random location, but I'm off to see my girlfriend Rachael. We met last summer at the Oakes Holiday Centre, Sheffield (where I worked on my pre-university gap year) where she has been working since September 2006. She had stayed on a second year to take on the role of housekeeper. However, she went back home over Christmas to renew her visa but it was denied. The following appeal was also rejected and it is now in a 4-6 month court process. The joys of bureaucracy! She has recently taken the assistant youth pastor role at her home church and is really loving it there. I'm so excited about seeing her as it's been almost five months since I last saw her.



Clovis, California

I'm so excited about seeing her as it's been almost five months since I last saw her. Please pray for a relaxing time and that Rach and I would be able to grow our relationship more and more whilst I'm out there. I'm also speaking at the youth service at her church on May 18th so prayers for that would be appreciated – particularly pray that I would speak slowly!!! I return on May 26th – that will not be a happy day.



Future Work

May 27-30: Biennial Training Conference

When I get back from California, I'm straight back into travelling as I head down for a few days in Northampton. The Association of Evangelists have organised a training conference entitled "The Work of the Evangelist". This is for anyone who has an interest in evangelism or being an evangelist. There are still spaces available so if you or anyone you would know would be interested, then click onto www.associationofevangelists.org and click on events. Please pray that this would be a great week of fellowship and training for all who come along.

June 1: All-Age Service Moorside

Once a month at Moorside Church, Drighlington, we have a family service where we seek to invite parents and families from the neighbourhood especially those who bring their kids to the kids club or who come to the mums and tots group. I'll be speaking at the one in June. Please pray that I would find time to prepare and that many people would come and hear about Jesus.

June 6: Family Wedding

On the 6th June, my sister Becky will cease to be a Giles and will become Rebecca Taylor. They've asked me to do the talk during the wedding service. This is a great opportunity since all my non-Christian family (which is everyone except my parents, Becky and I) will be there and will be more likely to listen to me explain about Jesus than someone else. Please pray that God would help me have the right words to say and that he would soften the hearts of my family. This is such a big opportunity so please, please pray!

June 11-19: Open Air Missions

I will be taking part in two open air weeks in June. The first will be in Oxford on 11th-14th and the second will be in Cambridge on 16th-19th. This is a great opportunity for me to further develop in this area and there will be some of the country's best open air speakers there to learn from. Please pray that we would all be bold and loving as we speak in the open air. Pray also for lives to be changed and people to come and know Jesus.

June 20-22: New Tribes Mission Conference

New Tribes Mission (NTM) is an organisation who support the local church in sending missionaries to tribes of the world who have never heard of Jesus before. The missionaries will move into the tribe, learn the usually unwritten language, translate the bible and teach the gospel seeking to plant an indigenous church. This is a work I am very interested in and I long to find out more about – hence me going on the conference. Pray that I would find out lots of information and that God would guide me in the future.



Update on Next Year

For those who don't know, come September, I will be moving back to Sheffield to take on the job as evangelist at my home church there (South Sheffield Evangelical Church - SSEC). I will be working for the church for three days a week and I am currently seeking to get a job for the remainder of the time. My desire is to have a job where I would be able to get in contact with as many people as possible so I'm applying for a job as a teaching assistant. Please pray that God would open doors if He so desires. Pray also that over my remaining times with the evangelists that I would be prepared for my role as the evangelist at SSEC.

Well that's a heck of a lot to keep you going. That's what happens when I don't write to you for a while. In my quiet times over the past weeks, I've been reading Isaiah and I've been getting the constant call to trust in God alone. Now, as a Christian, I trust Jesus alone for my salvation, I have done nothing to achieve it. But with my day to day life, I've been convicted of many areas where I rely on myself rather than on God. In our society of self reliance, not trusting in oneself is certainly a challenge. But why do I find it so hard? This is the question I've been asking myself. As Paul writes in Romans, "He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things." We have a gracious God who longs for us to rely on him and is so worth relying on, then it makes perfect sense to trust him with every aspect of my life. But this is where I struggle! Prayers would be appreciated.

Thanks as ever for your support, love and friendship.
In our mighty King and Redeemer,
Andy

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