

COMPASS



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The Quarterly Journal of
Non-Religious Christianity

pointing the way to revival

IS THERE A
FUTURE FOR
REVIVAL?

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EXAMINES THE
PROSPECTS FOR A
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

THE UNFORGETTABLE FIRE

VAST CROWDS IMPACTED
BY SCRIPTURE? U2'S
BONO SAYS: HOW

JOHN NOBLE

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CLIVE PRICE

WHOSE
MILLENNIUM IS IT,
ANYWAY?

ANN CLIFFORD PRESENTS
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From the Publishers of **Every Day with Jesus** written by Selwyn Hughes



Purpose-driven church



AMERICA IN PAIN: We are not alone in our problems

Our greatest need is to re-purpose the Church. Western culture has become far more spiritual but less Christ-like. It's fashionable to wear a cross but not bear the cross. Perhaps one reason is because we Christians are talking to ourselves - rather than the world around us.

Part of that re-purposing, will be to focus our lights to shine into the darkness. How dark is it?

The Samaritans take one call every 12 seconds from someone in despair; almost 50,000 children and teenagers are on the Child Protection Register; nearly a quarter of hospital beds are occupied by people with alcohol-related problems; and add to this litany the pain of marriage break-ups, massive drug addiction, increasing access to pornography on the Internet, and the increasing serious problem of homelessness, sickness and crime.

We're not alone with our problems. Random shootings in America, the blowing-up of apartment blocks in Moscow, the massive wave of crime and Mafia in Russia and the persecution of over 200 million Christian believers in 60 countries tell their own story. And we'd have to be blind not to note the plague of 'super-disasters' hitting nation after nation with floods, hurricanes, typhoons and earthquakes.

However, ten per cent of Britons are part of a church. And it's been such an encouragement to see churches re-focussing on mission and evangelisation with Alpha and other special initiatives, particularly as we enter the new Millennium.

Re-purposing the Church is directly related to whether mission is on the agenda - or mission *is* the agenda. Most people living in Britain have little idea of what Christianity has to offer. The results? Loss of faith, value and direction.

There are times, seasons and new beginnings with our God. As the millennium is about to break in on us, could this be such a new beginning?

The Evangelical Alliance have been caught off-guard by the huge response to the Month of Prayer and Fasting - which should be underway by the time you receive this magazine. It's likely that the largest number of Christian disciples will be praying in a unified fashion over the longest period of time in memory. Almost 35,000 prayer guides have been purchased, another 65,000 have been distributed, and as we went to print, another 35,000 prayer guides were coming off the presses.

The Countdown initiative provides a framework for unity and discipline as we petition heaven. Britain's fastest growing church in London - with over 5,000 members - has already committed itself to this season of prayer and fasting.

Whatever our views on revival, or whatever models of church will facilitate it, without a divine visitation, a massive infusion of light, the darkness will overcome and destroy untold numbers. I am using this month to re-assess my priorities, re-purpose my ministry and along with many others to help re-purpose the church.

Jesus loves the Church. So must we. We'll never change what we do not love. (For Countdown information, phone 0171 207 2115, or e-mail countd@eauk.org)

Gerald Coates
Editor

Cover photograph: 'U2' by Geoff Crawford (Camerapress)

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HOME NEWS



NO PLACE LIKE DOME

CHRISTIANITY and its impact on Britain over the last 2,000 years is being explored as part of the 'Faith' zone at the Millennium Dome in Greenwich.

The zone consists of a canopy stretched across a formation of arches, sheltering an exhibition about religious faith in Britain in the year 2000.

It will feature 'a clear account of the life of Christ', as well as describing the diverse 'faith landscape' found in the UK today, and the role of belief in people's lives.

And amid all the other frenetic activity at the Dome, this zone will offer a 'contemplation space' with an opportunity for quiet reflection.

"Faith" is one of the most challenging zones in the Dome in every respect," said Millennium Experience Chief Executive Jennie Page. "For many visitors to the Dome, the central significance of

the millennium celebrations will be that they mark the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of Christ.

"But for those who aren't regular worshippers, or who do not identify with any one religion, "Faith" offers the opportunity to explore humanity's relationship with faith in a way that will be engaging and involving."

CALL TO FILL YEAR 2000 'VOID'

AMID widespread apathy about welcoming the year 2000, evangelicals are working hard in the hope that the Church will turn the tide and make a memory of the millennium.

A 'spiritual void' in the celebrations could be filled by various initiatives from the Evangelical Alliance and its members, according to General Director Joel Edwards.

"Even though people are rejecting

the hype,' he said, 'the reality is that the public still wants a "Christian moment of reflection" for the millennium, by all accounts. And it's that gap between the hype and the reality that all Christians should keep an eye on.'

Writing in the November/December 99 edition of the Alliance magazine *IDEA*, Edwards pointed out how one pub landlord had said that 'millennium eve is looking like a bit of a flop', as most Britons appear to be staying at home.

"It's ironic that the most celebrated and tele-visual millennium in history has actually become a historic turn-off for so many," he added. "We all know it's an important Christian date - we're just not too sure what we're supposed to do with it."

GOLDEN GRAHAM'S DAWN CHORUS

POPULAR worship leader and

songwriter Graham Kendrick has composed all the material in a ground-breaking 'musical and visual journey' to herald the year 2000.

Billed as 'the greatest story ever sung', *The Millennium Chorus* is inspired by Jesus' life and message. Kendrick is well known for taking praise to the streets - this latest project could well see him taking it to the world media.

It consists of 12 songs performed by such award-winning artists as 'Phantom Of The Opera' star Michael Crawford and Maire Brennan of Clannad - together with a host of other stars.

Borrowing influences from pop to Celtic, soul/gospel to musical theatre, world music to choral epic, the production not only 'stimulates the senses and stirs the soul', but also is 'an experience of hope'.

The concept will help focus people's attention on the needs of others and provide - through royalties from every album sold - financial support to the charities to which each song has been dedicated.

The Chorus will be broadcast on TV and radio around the world beginning on Millennium Eve and will be available in over 100 countries. It's hoped that throughout 2000, songs from the Chorus will be performed by local choirs, schools, community groups and churches using printed music resources and backing tracks.

The *Millennium Chorus* album will be available on CD and tape. The full unedited TV special will be available on video and DVD.

"For people who know me, and what I'm known for, this is different," Graham Kendrick told *Compass*. "It's not a praise and worship album, although there's a great spirit of worship to it."

"It's a song cycle, rather than a musical. We designed it for TV in such a way that you can break it into individual songs. It's in the style of pop video, but the content is more important than just the entertainment aspect."

CARDIFF TO HOST BIG PRAISE EVENT

HOT on the heels of the recent world rugby competition, a completely different kind of champion will be declared in Wales, the land of revival, on



DOME ALONE: Logo for the unique Millennium Experience



DAWN CHORUS: Clannad's Marie Brennan joins Graham Kendrick for a musical feast

Sunday 2nd January 2000.

Cardiff's Millennium Stadium will host a special *Songs Of Praise* event. Taking part will be – Noel Richards, Band of the Welsh Guards, Welsh Harp Orchestra, Sir Cliff Richard, Hopes and Dreams Choir, Bryn Terfel and Daniel O'Donnell.

A total of 66,000 tickets have already been sold for the event. An overflow screen relaying all that is happening inside the stadium, will be set up in the city. There is also a relay being sent to a big screen in the Shetland Islands.

The event will be broadcast 'live' on BBC national TV at 3.30pm (UK time) and the whole programme will last for one hour. Eight million people will watch this worship event.

Noel Richards and his band will be playing two songs - *Here Is Love Vast As The Ocean*, the theme song of the 1904 Welsh Revival, and *We Want To See Jesus Lifted High*.

FAIR COP FOR RADIO

ONE of Britain's senior policemen is to become the new chief at FEBA Radio, the Christian broadcasting charity.

John Bartlett – recently retired Chief Superintendent with Greater Manchester Police – will formally take over the job of Chief Executive of FEBA from Michael Roemmele on 1st January 2000.

Throughout his career, Bartlett has spent much time actively involved in his local church, and has a particular concern for the needs of the inner city.

Married with three children, he confessed that moving to the south has one other major incentive: both he and his sons are keen Wimbledon FC supporters! 'As Wimbledon supporters we were a bit of a rarity in Manchester,' he quipped.

TV PRAYER TO LAUNCH MILLENNIUM

A SPECIAL prayer to help people think about the future and get closer to God has been launched by Fanfare for a New Generation, the Christian Millennium charity.

It's a key element in Fanfare's special ITV broadcast 'One Step Closer - A Sunday Morning Special For Millennium Sunday' scheduled for 2nd January 2000. The specially written 'God-centred' prayer offers everyone a chance to take a step closer to Christ, wherever they are in their spiritual journey.



NEW SINGLE: *Delirious?* will target the chants in February 2000

Fanfare is hoping churches will use *One Step Closer* in their morning services or link into this national moment live on TV (further details regarding the actual time of broadcast are to be confirmed by ITV).

Fanfare is encouraging churches to join in with this national initiative, by inviting people to come to church on Millennium Sunday and take 'One Step Closer'.

'The One Step Closer prayer challenges people's perceptions of Christianity,' said TV vicar Steve Chalke, one of Fanfare's directors. 'It's a bridge builder to get them thinking about God and where they're at! Our task is to move people on - and this is a tool to help them.'

As reported in a past edition of *Compass*, Fanfare launched the New Millennium Challenge to churches in Easter 1998. It was endorsed by all four presidents of Churches Together - including Archbishop George Carey and the late Cardinal Basil Hume.

TIMELY TUNE FROM DELIRIOUS?

A YOUNG woman who'd tried to commit suicide, gained fresh hope after listening to it. A series on Fox TV in America used it as part of their soundtrack for an episode about crushing moral dilemmas. It's already been hailed as a 'gem'. The song? *It's OK* - and it's the

latest single from Delirious?

Scheduled for release on 21st February 2000, for many people it's their favourite track from the band's latest album *Mezzamorphis*. If it also climbs the dizzy heights of the Top Ten, the song could open up the mainstream media for Delirious? - and produce possible TV appearances like *Top Of The Pops*.

This sensitive rock ballad is a reassuring message for anyone who's going through hard times. 'We knew someone who was going through depression,' said guitarist Stu Garrard, 'and I started to write this song as an encouragement to them. The chorus came from that - "it's OK, you know I'll live to fight another day".'

Some may think it's a surprising choice of song, considering the band's history of scooping respectable chart positions with uptempo 'radio-friendly' rock numbers like *Deeper* and *Promise*.

The single will be available on two CDs - along with some brand new tracks and popular concert material like the spoof 60s tune *Pursuit Of Happiness*, which delighted thousands when it opened the encores on the band's last tour. For those with CD-ROM drives, there will also be the accompanying video to 'Pursuit' - along with other surprises.

So far as the millennium is concerned, Delirious? are about to

play their last gigs of the century in the run-up to Christmas. The highly popular five-piece will take their 'Mezza-mania Tour' across the UK throughout December.

The full list of dates are as follows: Sheffield Octagon (11th December); Port Talbot Afan Lido (12th); Cambridge Corn Exchange (13th); Norwich Waterfront (16th); Liverpool L2 (18th); and London Shepherd's Bush Empire (20th).

For tickets, phone 0115 912 9000. The band also plan to play a selection of gigs in February, at high street record stores across the UK.

WORLD NEWS



MODERN MIRACLE: Dreamworks' hit movie *The Prince of Egypt* - coming to a small screen near you

MIRACLES ON THE SMALL SCREEN

HOLLYWOOD rarely produces Bible-based resources for schools and churches. Nor does it have special screenings for Christian leaders. But that's exactly what has been happening with the blockbuster animated movie *The Prince Of Egypt* - particularly now it's available on video for the first time.

Compass reported on the film at the time of its cinema release, when we revealed that leading evangelicals like Ravi Zacharias had been consulted during the production process, or been invited to provide study notes.

Now it's coming to small screens across the UK and America, and a new promotion campaign has been encouraging fresh interest in what's been hailed as one of the top ten animated movies of all time.

The video still manages to convey the excitement and emotion of the dramatic scenes from DreamWorks' retelling of the epic Bible story about Moses and the deliverance of his fellow Hebrews from slavery.

The contest between Moses and Pharaoh's magicians; the plagues; the exodus and the parting of the Red Sea still come across in spectacular fashion - even on a domestic TV and video player.

'Parents have said *The Prince Of Egypt* is not just a movie, but an event - a must-own for every family,' said the video's promoters Larry Ross and Robert Wolgemuth, in a statement from their US offices.

'They say the film has inspired

lively conversations with their kids about hope, faith, morality and leadership. While kids gravitate to the action and humour, parents value the film as a foundational story told with accuracy.'

Popular actor Jeff Goldblum - star of such hit films as *The Fly* and *Jurassic Park* - provides the voice of Moses' brother Aaron. 'I love this story,' he said of *Prince Of Egypt*. 'It's very uplifting in a way that's heart-centred and conscience-driven. It inspires me.'

HEALINGS UP AT TORONTO

A DRAMATIC increase in 'healing miracles' has allegedly been taking place at Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship, according to a recent report in the church's own magazine *Spread The Fire*.

Editor Melinda Fish explained how John Arnott, who leads the Toronto fellowship, believed that 'healing stream' was emerging there. So he invited Ottawa-based evangelist Bill Prankard - who's had a full-time healing ministry for some time - to join their renewal team.

Toronto's weekly renewal meetings are now almost exclusively led by either Arnott or Prankard. The evangelist will often receive 'words of knowledge', indicating healings that are taking place.

'Scores of people from all over the world have testified to God's miracle-working power in their lives,' Melinda Fish reported.

Prankard himself believes the purpose of the renewal must extend beyond personal blessing

speaking in schools to clearing debris from roads. 'It was the first time in my life where I went into a ministry service situation without my stethoscope,' said one doctor.

'Through this experience, I found my dependence on God alone one of the most spiritually freeing moments of my Christian life.'

LIFE AND DEATH ISSUES

AMID the tragic news of 14 people being crushed to death on the first night, evangelist Reinhard Bonnke's recent crusade in Benin City, Nigeria, eventually resulted in nearly 400,000 Christian commitments.

According to *Charisma*, early reports had said that the deaths had occurred as the crowd rushed to touch Bonnke. But the magazine pointed out that they actually happened outside the venue as the people left.

Compass received a statement from Bonnke's organisation, Christ for all Nations, who confirmed the accident took place 'after the service on the first night of the crusade, when at a city intersection the crowd pushed forward'.

Fortunately, there was no repeat of the incident - even though attendance grew up to 500,000 at one particular meeting. A total of nearly two million turned up over the entire six-day event. The 19,000 counsellors were stretched to the limit as they tried to help every inquirer.

Deputy State Governor Chief Mike Oghiadomhe officially opened the crusade. 'This is the largest gathering of human beings to ever take place in Edo State,' he is reported to have said.

MEGA-CHURCH IS AN UNDERSTATEMENT!

THE meeting hall is nearly a mile long. It holds 800,000 people. Just under 70 babies were born during a two-week convention. This is the two million-member Redeemed Christian Church of God in Lagos, Nigeria.

Reports about this massive congregation have been finding their way back to Britain via Christian speakers and ministries who have visited the church. They usually claim to have been deeply impacted by the experience.

Among them is the Sussex-based worship team Vinesong, who said they were 'overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude' of the Lagos church. They went there to

take part in a convention, which saw nearly 700,000 people resident on-site.

'There were many miracles,' said Vinesong. 'Paraplegics of all ages were walking, demons were cast out and women who had received prayer for infertility two years before came with their babies - 1,034 in one evening.'

'Many, many more were healed instantly at the front. Many others received their healing later in their seats.'

Vinesong felt they were well received, and were reportedly invited back to lead worship at a planned three-day festival where up to 20 million people would be expected to attend.

A NEW GULF STREAM

A PASTOR'S daughter testified of major changes in her life, attitude and relationships; a Catholic priest experienced the Holy Spirit and spoke in a strange language; teenagers had to be literally carried from meetings because the 'presence of God' was so strong.

Those were just some of the highlights of a recent youth congress that drew more than 9,000 young people - twice the expected number - to Puebla, Mexico City. Among the speakers was Pioneer leader and *Compass* Editor Gerald Coates (who referred to the event in the last edition).

Coates spoke of the rivers of corruption, drugs and sexuality running across Mexico - but also of the 'river of God', which demanded repentance, scriptural holiness, right relationships and mission.

He and wife Anona had brought 15 metres of blue cloth as a visual aid to represent God's river. Coates made the appeal as difficult as he could, to reinforce the seriousness of surrendering one's life to Christ.

Twenty teenagers lifted the cloth above head height, and those who responded were invited to walk underneath. According to Coates' own report, 'scores fell to the ground under the power of the Holy Spirit'.

Initially, 800 flocked to the front to dedicate themselves to serving Jesus. But by the time the evening had finished, 4,500 had taken the journey through the 'river'.

'Meetings lasted for three hours or more,' said Coates. 'The energy in worship, prayer and response at the close of meetings was amazing.'

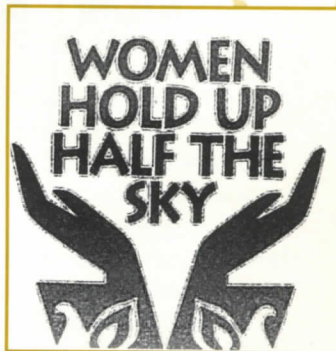
FOCUS ON WOMEN OF THE WORLD

WOMEN make up half the world's population and work two-thirds of the world's hours. But they earn only one-tenth of the world's income.

To help British churches respond to women's needs, Christian relief charity Tearfund have focused a set of resources on the vital role played by women around the world.

The materials for Tearfund Sunday - which takes place on 5th March 2000 - are based on the words of a Chinese saying, 'Women hold up half the sky - but it is the heavier half'.

Drawing on the everyday stories of women in Ethiopia, a resource pack includes video, poster set, wall chart, OHP set, plus a 16-page activity guide (phone 0845 355 8355).



WORLD'S WOMEN: New Tearfund campaign



LATIN RHYTHM: God moves in Mexico



NIGERIAN CRUSADE: Reinhard Bonnke

and towards 'the preparation of God's people for reaching the lost'. He feels miracles are 'simply a hook' that God uses to draw people in.

It was attending a Kathryn Kuhlman meeting more than 28 years ago that first propelled Prankard into the realm of healing. He has led Pentecostal churches in Canada, and has helped spark a regional revival in eastern Ontario.

In 1975 he launched a missionary outreach to remote Inuit (Eskimo) villages in the Arctic territories. He has raised funds that have been used to build a number of Arctic churches.

DOCTORS AT LARGE IN VENEZUELA

WHEN nearly 200 Southern Baptist medical missionaries were refused permission to practise medicine in Venezuela, half of them went there anyway - and saw more than 1,000 people make Christian commitments.

It all started out as a 'normal medical missions project', according to a report from the Baptist Press, published in a recent edition of South Africa's 'Joy' magazine. But it turned into a highly successful evangelistic outreach.

For the first time in ten years, the Venezuelan government denied 187 volunteers permission to practise medicine or even give medical advice. Yet 100 team members wanted to go - despite the ruling.

So instead of giving medical care, they did everything from

A marriage *for the millennium*

Word and Spirit must
join together if we're to
impact our world during
the 21st century, says
John Noble. But it
mustn't be a shotgun
wedding. It has to
be a marriage made
in heaven

Word
and
Spirit

THE New Church explosion of the last 30 years is undisputed. Almost every town boasts at least one New Church. Some boast many. What is difficult to quantify is the current statistical reality.

While exploring why there were no schools or halls available for rent, a church in one London borough discovered why. They were already occupied by the dozens of new church plants springing up all over the place.

Exactly how many people and how many churches are involved, no-one seems to know.

Certainly thousands of New Churches and fellowship groups are hundreds of thousands of people are meeting every week across the British Isles - and this against a backdrop of doom and decline in the historic denominations.

Something to crow about? Not really. They say when a fashion reaches the masses, it's probably already peaked and is on the way out. So have the New Churches reached plateau? Have they had their day? Or are they about to be superseded by a fresh movement of the Spirit - or even of man's design?

I never thought I'd be excited to hear that numbers of New Churches are in fact struggling to maintain growth. The truth is, that was exactly my

experience at a recent gathering of apostolic leaders from most of the New Church streams.

Actually, contrary to what some want to believe, there is a great deal of love, respect, co-operation and support expressed between the Virgo's, the Coates's, the Jones's, the Morton's, the Coombes's, the Matthews's, the Bell's, the Reid's and Co - as they meet regularly for prayer and sharing together.

On this occasion the stories of blessing, healing and revival from around the world and the generally encouraging reports from the churches flowed - as always, with no sense of competition.

However, in this secure environment there was time for honest reflection. These leaders freely acknowledged that they were disappointed that the expansion they had previously enjoyed, in Britain at least, appeared to have levelled out.

Amid such frank and open discussion, Derek Brown, leader of King's Church, Aldershot, and the network of related churches, reminded us of this prophecy given by Smith Wigglesworth before he died:

'During the next few decades there will be two distinct moves of the Holy Spirit across the Church in Great Britain. The first move will affect

**UNITY MUST BE
GENUINE AND
NOT CONTRIVED**

GOD HAD GRACIOUSLY GRABBED OUR ATTENTION

every church that is open to receive it and will be characterised by a restoration of the baptism and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

'The second move of the Holy Spirit will result in people leaving historic churches and planting new churches.

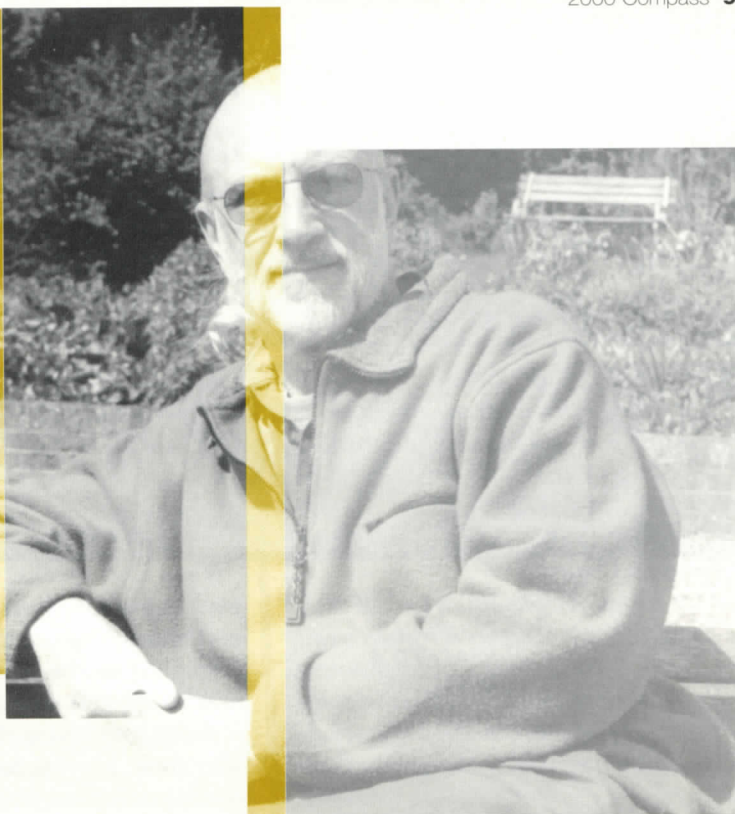
'In the duration of each of these moves, the people who are involved will say, "This is the great revival". But the Lord says, "No, neither is the great revival - but both are steps towards it".

'When the new church phase is on the wane, there will be evidenced in the churches something that has not been seen before: a coming together of those with an emphasis on the Word and those with an emphasis on the Spirit.

'When the Word and the Spirit come together, there will be the biggest movement of the Holy Spirit that the nation, and indeed the world, has ever seen. It will mark the beginning of a revival that will eclipse anything that has been witnessed within these shores, even the Wesleyan and the Welsh revivals of former years.

'The outpouring of God's Spirit will flow over from the UK to the mainland of Europe, and from there will begin a missionary move to the ends of the earth.'

My heart leapt! Far from being despondent about the lack of growth in the New Churches, I was exhilarated by the thought that this



scenario could be the prelude to a great revival.

Obviously these apostolic team leaders believe in what they're doing and are committed to the vision God has given them. But none of them is so foolish as to believe they can achieve God's objectives for our world - or indeed our nation - alone.

None of them rejoices in the haemorrhaging taking place in the traditional churches.

For as surely as we hold dear the truth that there is only one body, then it is that body, of which we are a part, which is suffering and we have a vested interest in its overall health and welfare.

Our individual successes in the past may have dulled that sense of need of others. But it's always been there, not far below the surface.

Now I realised God had graciously grabbed our attention. He was focusing us once again on the ineffectiveness of a divided body - and the incredible power generated in a united one.

I guess all of us involved in this particular apostolic forum had, at some, time, given our 'amen' to the prophetic cry - 'the day of the streams is over, the day of the river is here!' Nevertheless, we were also aware of the real tensions encountered in practically working out such a call - locally, nationally and internationally.

This requires us to reach out from



↓ the foundation of a secure identity, a willingness to sacrifice by investing and receiving from outside of our own circles and a humble discernment which will ensure that our people are not manipulated or abused in the process.

↓ Unity must be genuine and not contrived. So, in different ways, in different locations, we are all endeavouring to work this out as far as we can understand and interpret God's heart. Now God is going further by revealing his specific plan for the next phase - a marriage of 'Word and Spirit'.

**HAVE THE NEW
CHURCHES
REACHED A
PLATEAU?**

Word

This surely must require a positive and active response if we accept it as God's 'now' word to us and our networks of relationships. Those of us in leadership in Pioneer are set to seriously explore what we feel this 'coming together of Word and Spirit' means - and what our response should be.

Far be it for me to pre-empt debate or to attempt to determine what the outcome of our prayer and discussion might be. But I do have a personal perspective that I'll be throwing into the mix.

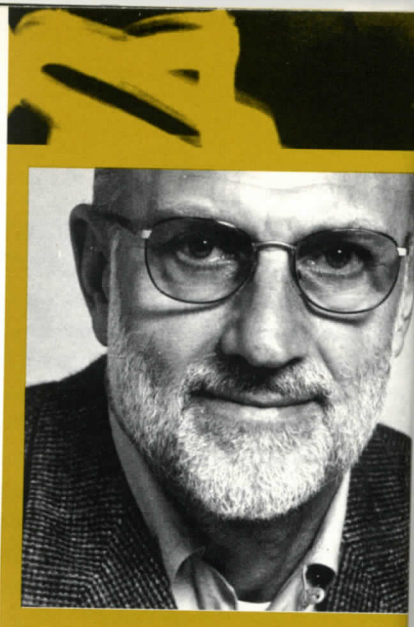
When God speaks, we Christians tend to look back to past experiences and blessing rather than forward, crying for wisdom and grace to have eyes to see and ears to hear what God is doing and saying. Perhaps that's why those praying for revival often don't see it when it comes because of their preconceptions.

My convictions are twofold if we are to avoid a human marriage of Word and Spirit and to facilitate a divine one:

- we must not polarise into 'you have no Word and need us' or 'you have no Spirit and need us' camps. Polarising our positions will work against us. There are few streams in either emphasis that possess nothing of the other's strength. It's a matter of degree;
- we must not look to combine the worst of charismatic airy-fairy independence and personal fulfilment, with conservative evangelical legalism and boring biblical lecturing approach. That would be a disaster of monumental proportions and will never produce 'The great revival' we all long for.

No, we must move on to discover more of Jesus, the living Word, through scripture - the written word - and to see more of the Holy Spirit's supernatural power manifested in totally new ways through our lives, relationship, ministry and work, than ever before.

That must mean pressing on into



God much deeper by building on the best elements in our various traditions and finding the new champions of the cause who God is sending to help us.

For my part, I am currently enjoying fresh insights into Jesus and his teaching by reading and praying through Dallas Willard's wonderful book *The Divine Conspiracy**, published by Font. I'm sure this is just the beginning of the process for me. I'm developing a new passion for Jesus and the gospels.

How about you? Does this predicted marriage of the Word and Spirit streams have any bearing on your life and sphere of influence? I trust so. Revival or not, it is much needed in the British Church at this time.

John Noble is chairman of Charismata, a network for charismatic leaders and influencers, senior adviser to Gerald Coates and leader of the churches forum within the Pioneer network. His article is adapted from a book he plans to publish, called *The Shaking*.

**WE MUST MOVE ON TO DISCOVER
MORE OF JESUS, THE LIVING WORD**

PACKED WITH PUNCH

Alpha's millennium initiative may have been launched with a fun spectacular, but there's a serious intent behind the wacky stage show. Clive Price was there...



COVENT GARDEN usually offers visiting tourists cafes, restaurants and street theatre. But one particular sunny Sunday afternoon, they were also treated to a spectacular stage show that officially launched Alpha's millennium initiative.

Entertainer Mark Stafford thrilled the crowds with funny jokes, hair-raising juggling acts with fish knives and farm implements, and by lying on a bed of nails. After such nail-biting excitement, the much calmer figure of Holy Trinity Brompton vicar Sandy Millar urged everyone to 'explore the meaning of life' by attending an Alpha course.

A trumpet fanfare heralded the unveiling of the first of 200,000 posters that were being put up across Britain to promote Alpha. It carried the slogan: "Dome. Bug. Party. Alka-Seltzer. Is there more to the Millennium?"

And towards the end of the event, countless batches of Alpha's mirth-making but meaningful 'millennium survival kit' were distributed among the crowd. The kit - also sent to all 659 of Britain's MPs - contains everything people need for December 31st: party hat, balloon, party popper, a sachet of Alka Seltzer and a corkscrew.

But there's also an invitation to Alpha, the ten-week introductory course to the Christian faith that's taken off across the world.

'It's a light-hearted means of drawing attention to the most significant message of the millennium,' said Sandy Millar. 'By all means let's have a party - but let's make sure we have something more lasting with which to face the new millennium.'

Churchgoers of all denominations

have since been involved in this vast co-operative effort to invite the nation to courses, which have been running at 7,000 venues across the UK. About 750,000 Brits have attended Alpha over the last five years.

'Alpha is an unqualified triumph,' said Clifford Longley, among Britain's most well known and respected religious correspondents. 'The reconversion of England, so oversold by evangelicals so often, is suddenly almost believable.'

Cynics would say this polite presentation is targeted at those who frequent the Knightsbridge fold. Yet the course is impacting the villages, inner city - and prisons.

'You can't put it down to one factor,' said Nicky Gumbel, who spearheads Alpha. 'It's a lot of things that make it acceptable to our culture.' He outlines key reasons:

- it's local church based;
- it mobilises the local church to evangelise;
- it's friendship based;
- it recognises that evangelism is a process;
- it appeals to the whole person;
- it involves different models of evangelism.

There are many supporters outside HTB: the Anglican Archbishops of Canterbury and York; Evangelical Alliance chief Joel Edwards; Terry Virgo, head of New Frontiers International; and Gerald Coates, who leads Pioneer.

Methodist evangelist Rob Frost described it as 'John Wesley's class meeting rediscovered' - referring to the small groups that sustained the Wesleyan revival. Bible teacher Rob Warner devoted a chapter to Alpha in

'21st Century Church' (Kingsway), pinpointing lessons for the Christian community:

- more meals and fewer meetings;
- more quality control and commitment to excellence, for effective preaching;
- more space for interactive learning;
- a thorough integration of mind and heart in our exploration of living faith;
- the value of multimedia communication.

Alpha meets many of the demands of the postmodern age. The hunger for relationship and revelation is catered for; the desire for exposition and experience is fulfilled; the longing for truth and transcendence is satisfied. News has just broken that ITV is to start filming a series about the course in the spring. So the course's impact is likely to not only continue, but also increase.

Back to the millennium launch. Amid the separate mime artists, conjurers and tarot card readers spread around Covent Garden, even the launch itself showed something of the Alpha philosophy - fun, friendship and food.

The stage was underneath the towering columns of St Paul's Church, where a plaque says England's first Punch and Judy show was performed on that spot in 1662. Punch's 'prophetic' confirmation rings true for Alpha: 'That's the way to do it!'

Clive Price is Consultant Editor of Compass.

postcards from the edge of popular culture:

entertaining

CURTAIN UP

Ever feel like you're being watched? According to Billy Graham, angels have us under constant surveillance. He points to 1 Corinthians 4 where Paul says we are a 'spectacle' to the heavenly host, and Psalm 91: 'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways'.

Hollywood's response to the scrutiny is 'right back at ya', turning the tables to focus its lens on these celestial beings. So, Michael, Gabriel - are you ready for your close-up?

Everyone loves angels. It's a perk of the job. But Hollywood has been showing particular interest in recent years. There's been *The Prophecy*, *The Butcher's Wife*, *City Of Angels*, *Michael*, *Devil's Advocate* and *A Life Less Ordinary* - plus a whole host of other more forgettable films and TV movies.

And it's not just a recent phenomenon. Interest in the supernatural has been daily fodder in Tinsel Town for years. Gabe made a 1946 appearance alongside Jimmy Stewart in the ultimate Christmas flick *It's a Wonderful Life*. But what treatment do God's holy helpers get from Hollywood?

It's not going to come as a massive shock to hear that Hollywood's representation of angels is often less than biblical. If they're not falling in love with humans (*City Of Angels*) then they're losing the plot completely to wreak havoc on humankind (*Prophecy*).

Hollywood also seems fond of suggesting that we all become angels when we die (*Michael*). Yet however unbiblical many of the plot lines might be, it's not all bad.

'The more Hollywood portrays angels,' said leading Christian film critic David Bruce, 'the more the spiritual world that exists around us becomes seemingly more tangible.' Bruce believes that movies about angels promote the idea of the spiritual realm and inspire people to think about God.

ANGELS AT THE MOVIES

I Married An Angel - 1942
It's A Wonderful Life - 1946
Heaven Only Knows - 1947
Date With An Angel - 1987
Wings Of Desire - 1987
Almost An Angel - 1990
The Prophecy - 1995
(Prophecy II - 1998)
Michael - 1996
The Butcher's Wife - 1996
A Life Less Ordinary - 1997
City Of Angels - 1998

Hollywood has its sights on heavenly beings.

SCENE 1

The 1998 Meg Ryan/Nicholas Cage movie, *City Of Angels*, sees the angelic Seth (Cage) and his colleague watching over the population of LA. So far, so biblical (Hebrews 12:1). But all goes horribly wrong when Seth, yes you guessed it - meets the angelically human Maggie (Ryan). Despite being able to hear the suns singing, Seth decides to 'fall' for his girl. So while the film makes it clear that humans can't become angels, it does say that angels can become human.

The Bible tells us about fallen angels. But their fall is the result of pride and rebellion (Isaiah 14), not Meg Ryan. The only one who ever gave up heaven for the love of humanity was Jesus (Philippians 2: 'in human form he humbled himself by dying a criminal's death on a cross').

SCENE 2

So what do you see when you think of an angel? Well, the makers of *Michael* were betting that it wasn't the all-smoking, all-eating, Mr Saturday Night Fever, John Travolta. Credit to go to a film that doesn't portray angels as fairies. But points have to be deducted for the feather shedding, soon as the unlikely Michael 'lands' on earth, he starts losing his wing feather by feather.

Michael wasn't a big hit. In its attempt to make angels look cool

angels

Gary Pritchard and Kay Pringle focus on the truth about God's flying squad

just made the *Pulp Fiction* star look a bit silly. The archangel's trip to earth is treated like an 18-30s holiday, though we eventually see that he's here to teach us how to love again. Aahh.

SCENE 3

The Prophecy is a far nastier film. Once again taking the much worn path of fallen angels, *Prophecy* works on the basis that if one major angel could fall, then so could another. This time it's Gabriel. And if anyone can turn Gabriel from a goody to a baddie, it's Christopher Walken.

Just like Lucifer, Gabriel becomes dissatisfied with his role in heaven. 'I just want it like it was when God loved us best,' says Walken as he sets about his destruction of the human race. Let the battle commence.

This is a film about spiritual warfare. Despite taking a number of biblical liberties (like adding a chapter to Revelation), it does remind us of Ephesians 6: 'For we are not fighting against people of flesh, but against the authorities of darkness and wicked spirits in the heavenly realms'.

THE FINAL ACT

Virtually all cultures hold some belief in angelic beings. Ancient Egyptians created such lavish tombs because they believed that angels would visit in later years. Islamic scholars propose that we

all have at least two angels of our own (one recording our bad deeds and the other the good). Even some scientists have put the appearance of UFOs down to celestial forces.

But clearly, our evidence should not come from religious academics, the scientific community or even Hollywood. We believe in angels - coz the Bible (and Billy Graham) tell us so.

Curtains open on the latest Hollywood battle between good and evil on Boxing Day. *Dogma* sees angels, demons, apostles and prophets meeting head to head with the cynics and innocents of New Jersey. American Christians have loved and loathed it in equal measures. See what you think. www.dogma-movie.com

PRODUCTION NOTES

Angels - God's Secret Agents by Billy Graham published by Hodder & Stoughton at £5.99, is available through Pioneer Direct (01252 784770). David Bruce film reviews can be found at www.hollywoodjesus.com

artistic license



Billboard promoting the ethical debate on vegetarianism in Kansas

postcards from the edge of popular culture:

but is it art?

WE'VE become used to public confessions. Everyone's at it - from disgraced politicians to guilt ridden talk show guests. But Tracy Emin has made an art form out of disclosure. The bad girl of Brit Art has been kissing and telling since she found fame with her tent embroidered with the names of 'everybody she had ever slept with'.

Emin even managed to get her art in the tabloids earlier this year, when her Turner Prize nominated 'Bed' was sabotaged by 'art terrorists' at the Tate. If you managed to avoid the hype, then My Bed is described as an 'installation that graphically displays the themes of loss, fertility, love and death'.

The reality of My Bed is stained sheets, used prophylactics, cigarette stubs and empty liquor bottles.

Some say Emin's art is a 'comment on confessional culture', others that it's 'low-life impressionism'. The artist herself admits that her work is a form of catharsis, but it's a lot more provoking than that. Her crude honesty forces you to engage with her as she obsesses on her abortions, rape, addictions, and what seems, her daily gut-wrenching pain.

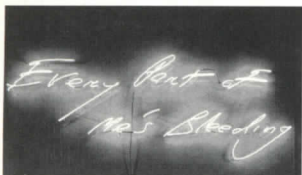
Tracy Emin throws herself into her work, and unlike other Brit Art celebs such as the shark-pickling Damien Hirst, she does it with near-religious sincerity. Indeed, the tent has been described as a portable Sistine Chapel for the 90s, and she titled her most revelatory exhibition yet 'I Need Art Like I Need God'.

You don't have to look too hard to find the spiritual yearning in Emin's confessional creations. One of her neon installations cries out (to God?) It's Not Me Screaming, It's My Soul. And while it would be going way too far to compare Tracy Emin with King David, she is much more like the Old Testament psalmist than the late-night Jerry Springer.

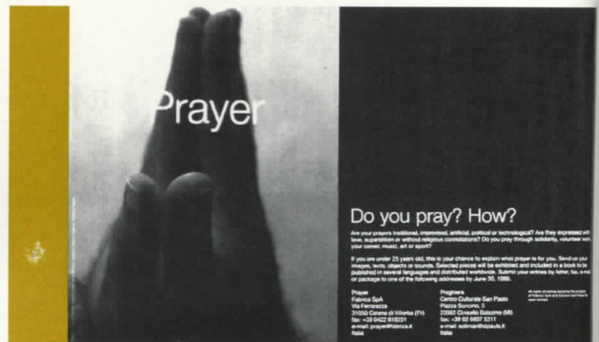
The Turner Exhibition at the Tate runs until February 6th 2000.



'Everyone I ever slept with' 1997



Turner Prize 1999



pray together, pay together

THE FABRICO prayer project has to be one of the more imaginative and relevant Millennium initiatives. Throughout 1999 the Italian-based company, funded by Bennetton, advertised in the trendy style press for contributions based on prayer in the 21st century.

They're not just interested in who's doing the praying or even who they're doing it to - their main aim is to find out how people present their devotion.

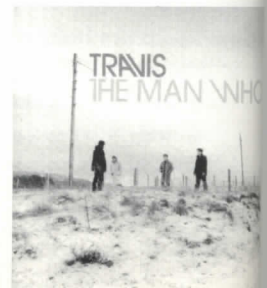
Entries for the Millennium book and exhibition include prayer through video, music, design, fashion, photography, new media - and even jokes. Good job God's got a sense of humour, then.

The prayer book and exhibition will be launched from Rome in spring 2000.

repentance single award:

TRAVIS - Turn (from The Man Who..., released on Independiente Records)

I want to see what people saw
I want to feel like I felt before
I want to see the kingdom come
I want to stay forever young
I want to sing, to sing my song
I want to live in a world where I belong
I want to live, I will survive
And I believe that it won't be very long
If we turn, turn, turn, turn, turn.
And if we turn, turn,
turn, turn
Then we might learn
Learn to turn



postcards from the edge of popular culture:

the sixth sense

IN THIS chilling psychological thriller, eight-year-old Cole Sear, (Haley Joel Osment) is haunted by a dark secret - he is visited by ghosts. A helpless and reluctant channel, Cole is terrified by threatening visitations from those with unresolved problems who appear from the shadows.

Confused by his paranormal powers, Cole is too young to understand his purpose and too terrified to tell anyone about his torment, except child psychologist Dr Malcolm Crowe (Bruce Willis).

As Dr Crowe tries to uncover the ominous truth about Cole's supernatural abilities, the consequence for client and therapist is a jolt that awakens them both to something harrowing and unexplainable.

Writer/director M Night Shyamalan makes wonderful use of shadows and reflections in this provocative movie. Throughout human history, shadows have symbolically been connected to spirits of the dead, and Shyamalan supplements this with clever use of windows and doors - symbolic entrances to other dimensions and realities.

The establishment of a holy place (sanctuary) is important in this film. The boy, Cole, seeks a place of peace from all the dead spirits and finds that place in a church. Another sense of the sacred in this film comes from the use of religious and secular icons - little figurines of Jesus, the saints, and even plastic soldiers and puppets.

Shyamalan is very clear that his film is about the importance of good and truthful communication within relationships. Bad communication acts like doors and windows that separate us from the loving relationships we need.

Red is also an important symbol in the film. It is used to underscore

'The Sixth Sense is about learning how to communicate those fears whether it's communication between a doctor and the patient, a husband and a wife, a mother and a son... keeping secrets from people we love can destroy marriages, careers, families and even lives. That in itself is horrifying.'

*M Night Shyamalan, director,
The Sixth Sense*



important links to the supernatural. Red in our culture is a symbol of blood and death, and Shyamalan gives it a spiritual connotation as well. We are introduced to the boy at a church with two big red doors; the little icon of Jesus in the church has a red cloth draped over his white robe; the holy candles have a reddish pink glow.

After learning from Malcolm about how previous generations sought refuge from their enemies in the church, Cole goes home and builds a red tent sanctuary in his room. And inside he places little Christian icons, a bed and a flashlight.

Towards the end of this film (don't worry - it's too good to give away), in a heart-grabbing scene, the mother (wearing red) becomes Cole's new sanctuary as she lovingly embraces her son. Truth brings intimacy to their relationship. Shyamalan seems to be suggesting that honest and caring relationships are a holy place - a sacred place.

The film works because it trades heavily on the millennial fear of the future, the after-life, heaven and hell. It is amazing that a film like this, filled with so many symbols of death and life, produces film critics that are reluctant to talk about the heavy spiritual subtext.

Another great topic this film deals

with is our own truth. 'And the truth shall set you free,' Jesus said. At the core of this film is the importance of living out truth and truth-telling within our relationships.

Some will fault this film for its theme of 'communication with the dead' - a definite nod towards 'Ghost'-like spiritualism. It also overuses horror-flick shock tactics, making it unsuitable for the young or nervous. But this film is too powerful and important to simply dismiss for its confused theology or cheap-shot fright scenes.

The film is a fantasy, but the story is filled with important truth and crucial

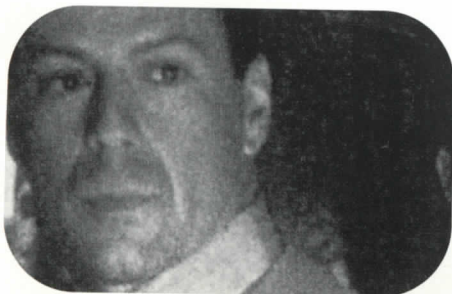


life issues. It also seems to fit with the trend in popular culture in suggesting that the scientific community (including psychologists) take a far too literal and rational view of the world - popular culture leading the academics?

It also has the nerve to surpass the limited Blair Witch fear-in-the-dark mock-horror, even if it loses out to BW on style, subtlety and street-cred.

A film to get you questioning your own fears and faith? You betcha!

Gary Pritchard is a freelance journalist and editorial manager of Compass. Kay Pringle is a freelance journalist based in London.



**'WE WANTED TO
PUT SOMETHING
EXPLICITLY
SPIRITUAL ON THE
RECORD'**

Huge crowds swaying and singing along to the 'soul' of scripture...how could it be?

Sharing personally from his early experiences of church through his mixed Protestant/Catholic background in Ireland, Bono goes on to explain how an ancient psalm later commanded centrestage at U2 shows across the globe

**'DAVID WAS A
STAR, THE ELVIS
OF THE BIBLE'**

the unforgettable fire

**'MY GOLIATH
BECAME
RELIGION ITSELF'**

I KEPT myself awake thinking of the clergyman's daughter and let my eyes dive into the cinema of the stained glass. These Christian artisans had invented the movies ... light projected through colour to tell their story.

In the 70s the story was 'the Troubles' and the Troubles came through the stained glass; with rocks thrown more in mischief than in anger, but the message was the same; the country was to be divided along sectarian lines.

I had a foot in both camps, so my Goliath became religion itself; I began to see religion as the perversion of faith. As to the five smooth stones for the sling ... I began to see God everywhere else. In girls, fun, music, justice and still - despite the lofty King James translation - the scriptures...

I loved these stories for the basest reasons, not just the New Testament with its mind-altering concept that God might reveal himself as a baby born in straw poverty - but even the Old Testament. These were action movies, with some hardcore men and women ... the car chases, the casualties, the blood and guts; there was very little kissing ...

David was a star, the Elvis of the Bible, if we can believe the chiselling of Michelangelo (check the face - but I still can't figure out this most famous Jew's foreskin).

And unusually for such a 'rock star', with his lust for power, lust for women, lust for life, he had the humility of one who knew his gift worked harder than he ever would. And he even danced naked in front of his troops ... the biblical equivalent of the royal walkabout. David was definitely more performance artist than politician.

Anyway, I stopped going to churches and got myself into a different kind of religion. Don't laugh, that's what being in a rock 'n' roll band is, not pseudo-religion either ... Show-business is Shamanism: Music is Worship; whether it's worship of women or their designer, the world or its destroyer, whether it comes from that ancient place we call soul or simply the spinal cortex, whether the prayers are on fire with a dumb rage or dove-like desire ... the smoke goes upwards ... to God or something you replace God with ... usually yourself.

Years ago, lost for words and 40 minutes of recording time left before the end of our studio time, we were still looking for a song to close our third album, War. We wanted to put something explicitly spiritual on the record to balance the politics and the romance of it; like Bob Marley or Marvin Gaye would. We thought about the psalms ... 'Psalm 40' ... There was some squirming. We were a very 'white' rock group, and such plundering of the scriptures was

taboo for a white rock group unless it was in the 'service of Satan'. Or worse, Goth.


'Psalm 40' is interesting in that it suggests a time in which grace will replace karma, and love replace the very strict laws of Moses (i.e. fulfil them). I love that thought. David, who committed some of the most selfish as well as selfless acts, was depending on it. That the scriptures are brim full of hustlers, murderers, cowards, adulterers and mercenaries used to shock me; now it is a source of great comfort.

'40' became the closing song at U2 shows and on hundreds of occasions, literally hundreds of thousands of people of every size and shape t-shirt have shouted back the refrain, pinched from 'Psalm 6': "'How long' (to sing this song)". I had thought of it as a nagging question - pulling at the hem of an invisible deity whose presence we glimpse only when we act in love. How long ... hunger? How long ... hatred? How long until creation grows up and the chaos of its precocious, hell-bent adolescence has been discarded? I thought it odd that the vocalising of such questions could bring such comfort; to me too.

But to get back to David, it is not clear how many, if any, of these psalms David or his son Solomon really wrote. Some scholars suggest the royals never dampened their nibs and that there was a host of Holy Ghost writers ... Who cares? I didn't buy Leiber and Stoller ... they were just his songwriters ... I bought Elvis.

Bono was born (Paul David Hewson) in Dublin in 1960. At 17 he joined the embryonic U2 with three school-friends. Most of them formerly attended a charismatic house church. The band went on to become one of the world's most influential rock groups ever.

Bono lives in Dublin with his wife and two children. His article is taken, with permission, from his introduction to the Psalms in the Canongate Pocket Bible series. To purchase copies, please write to: Canongate Books, 14 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1TE, Scotland (tel: 0131 557 5111/fax: 0131 557 5211/website: <http://www.canongate.co.uk>)



God's fix **for**

A massive glitch will cause many computers to malfunction at the turn of the century. Just as there are practical things we can do to stamp on the millennium bug, there are spiritual steps to take, too.

Rick Joyner shares what happened when he asked God about Y2K...

GOD IS NOT sitting in the heavens, wringing his hands and worrying about the Y2K 'millennium bug'. And neither is anyone who is abiding in him. This is not going to be the end of the modern world. But it is going to cause some problems that we need to be aware of.

The most severe difficulties will come from the panic generated by the situation, not actual computer glitches themselves. The Lord warned me, 'My people should neither be controlled by this fear nor contribute to it'.

If we are beset with such fears, we need to examine the foundations on which we have built our lives. If we have built our houses on the Rock by hearing and doing the Word of the Lord, the floods can come, but our 'houses' will stand (Matthew 7:24-29). God's word is greater than any flood - even the flood of problems from Y2K and a recession or depression.

That doesn't mean we should neglect to make some changes and preparations. But we must do all that we do in faith, following the Lord and not the world.

The whole world and all of its systems are extremely shaky and vulnerable, and Y2K is not by any means the worst problem now facing us. The meltdown of the Russian economy, North Korea, terrorism, and the rising tension between India and Pakistan are all going to be far worse problems than Y2K.

The world is tottering at the edge of

many different precipices. Only God's grace has kept us until now, and God's grace will keep us in the future. We are in the period of time spoken of in Revelation 7:1-3:

'After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind should blow over the earth or on the sea or on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads".'

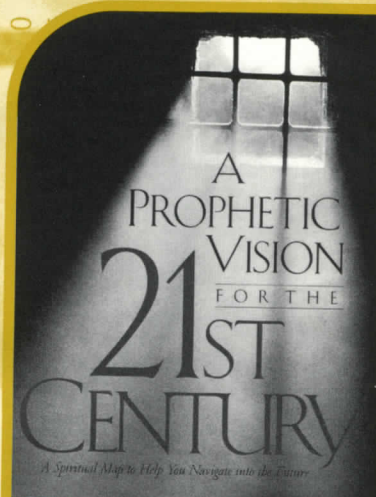
God can and will restrain the effects of Y2K and other forces that are trying to break forth across the earth until he is finished sealing his bondservants.

The true bondservant is a slave. He doesn't own anything, but everything he has belongs to his master. Even his time is not his own. Many claim this position, but few truly live it.

A true bondservant cannot lose anything in the stock market, or in any other business, because he does not own anything. He may be a steward of much, but it's not his, and he doesn't treat anything as if it were his.

Those who've become true bondservants have built their lives

Y2K



the kingdom that cannot be shaken by Y2K, an economic collapse, or any other disaster. Those who are true bondservants are being sealed in this hour, and they are protected.

But Christians who have claimed this position and have gone on living their lives for themselves will fall with the kingdom of this world.

We still have time to get our houses in order. It doesn't matter how entangled we are with the ways of this world - true repentance will bring us under the Lord's care.

Though we are his slaves, we could have no greater Master, and he will care for us much better than we can care for ourselves. That doesn't mean we won't suffer any loss.

Those who've built their lives on the ways of this world will lose much in what is coming. Even those who've done their best to live as bondservants of the Lord may lose some of that which is entrusted to them. We do live in the world even if we are not of it.

However, those who are living as bondservants will soon be entrusted with much more to steward than what they have lost. We are coming to the time the prophet wrote about:

'The wealth of the nations will come to you. . .

*Foreigners will build up your walls,
And their kings will minister to you;
For in my wrath I struck you,
And in my favour I have had
compassion on you.
Your gates will be open continually;*

*They will not be closed day or night,
So that men may bring to you the
wealth of the nations,
With their kings led in procession.
For the nation and the kingdom
which will not serve you will perish,
And the nations will be
utterly ruined.'*

(Isaiah 60:5, 10-12)

During the time of darkness, the nations will bring their wealth to God's people. God's people have nothing to fear when they do not take the mark of the beast that will allow them to buy, sell, or trade. A greater provision of God will be coming to those who are faithful.

Even so, it will still require a test of our faith to remain faithful, putting more trust in the economy of the kingdom than the economies of this present world.

Those who have truly submitted to the lordship of Jesus are soon to be rulers themselves. If you're moved in your heart to repent, begin by reading, studying, and obeying the following:

*'It is for discipline that you endure;
God deals with you as with sons; for
what son is there whom his father
does not discipline? But if you are
without discipline, of which all have
become partakers, then you are
illegitimate children and not sons.
Furthermore, we had earthly fathers
to discipline us, and we respected
them; shall we not much rather be*

*subject to the Father of spirits, and
live? For they disciplined us for a short
time as seemed best to them, but he
disciplines us for our good, that we
may share his holiness. All discipline
for the moment seems not to be joyful,
but sorrowful; yet to those who have
been trained by it, afterwards it yields
the peaceful fruit of righteousness.'*
(Hebrews 12:7-11)

We are approaching Judgement Day. We won't be able to get away with the things God may have overlooked in the past. As he promised, those who call him 'Lord, Lord,' but do not do what he says, will pay a terrible price (Matthew 7:21-23).

We must get rid of the roots of bitterness and forgive others as he has forgiven us. Excuses will not stand up when we are before his judgement seat.

Now is the time when all true bondservants will be revealed. They are the ones who truly do all things for the sake of his gospel.

Rick Joyner, founder and executive director of MorningStar Publications and Ministries, is the author of more than a dozen books - including bestsellers *The Call* and *The Final Quest*. He lives with his family in North Carolina, USA. Rick's article is taken, with permission, from his latest book *A Prophetic Vision For The 21st Century*, published by Thomas Nelson and distributed in the UK by Word.

he saint



IRISH ROMANCE: *Ryan's Daughter* was filmed on the dramatic west coast

Could the seemingly unlikely tale of a Celtic missionary discovering America offer a key to revival? Clive Price visited the Holy Ghost haunts of Brendan on Ireland's west coast to find out...

TOM CRUISE and Robert Mitchum have both been this way. They played lead roles in the hit movies *Far And Away* and *Ryan's Daughter*, respectively. Both productions were filmed on the beautiful Dingle peninsular, part of Ireland's dramatic Atlantic coastline.

But this 'wild, wild west' is really Brendan's land.

The Hollywood superstars were chasing women. Cruise was after Nicole Kidman, in the romantic story of two young immigrants who seek a better life in Oklahoma.

Mitchum was pursuing Sarah Miles, in 'a story of love set against the violence of rebellion', as the movie poster put it. But countless generations before them, Brendan had been chasing a dream.

Brendan was born near the present town of Tralee, County Kerry, in 484. These days it's a popular tourist centre - with a spectacular funpool, the Aqua Dome; one of Europe's leading multimedia museums; home of the National Folk Theatre of Ireland; and venue for the world famous 'Rose of Tralee' festival.

For Brendan, this region was the starting point for his own trip. But he was no tourist. His travels across the sea

THIS 'WILD, WILD WEST' IS REALLY BRENDAN'S LAND

**A 'SIGNS AND
WONDERS' SAINT
MAY HAVE
DISCOVERED AMERICA**



**BRENDAN HAD A
VISION OF A
'BEAUTIFUL NOBLE
ISLAND'**

have made him famous throughout history. The *Voyage Of Brendan* was equivalent to a bestseller in the Middle Ages.

His explorations were said to have been an inspiration to Christopher Columbus, who made sure several Irishmen were included in his own expeditions. For if the story is true, Brendan - one of the 'signs and wonders' saints - may have discovered America, and staked God's claim on that land.

Yet all he had to go on, was a vision of the 'Land of Promise'. But he set out on a journey that led him to discover exotic places and encounter amazing adventures.

Not only did it have a profound effect on him as a Christian leader, but also it had an influence on history. As a result, Brendan is officially the patron saint of sailors. But a more contemporary tribute would be to appoint him as patron saint of the postmodern church - an icon for the new millennium.

Depending on which textbook you read, Brendan may have been educated at Galway, or he may have been trained by the Welsh saints David and Illtyd, who was known for his prophetic gifting.

Later, he set up a monastery at Ardfert, not far from Tralee. The ruins of a once-great cathedral stand there now. About 1,700 skeletons were found during excavation - could they have been the members of that fifth century community? Experts in Dublin and Cork may tell us eventually.

Brendan wasn't meant to be an administrator. He felt the need to get closer to God, and saw the best road to redemption as the hard life of the exile. Perhaps he looked out across the fertile fields of Ardfert and towards the shore, yearning for a deeper, holier experience, and the chance to teach other people groups about Christ.

A holy man told him of how he had visited a beautiful island. And there were tales from Ireland's pagan past about far away, fabled lands.

But it was while sleeping, that Brendan heard the voice of an angel, urging him to go to the Land of Promise. To prepare himself spiritually, he then spent time seeking God, on top of Brandon Mountain.

You can drive along the narrow road that crawls over the back of this awesome, rocky landscape.

There's just a small, dry stone wall between you and a sheer drop to the valley floor below. Amid this breath-taking panorama, Brendan had a vision of a 'beautiful noble island', surrounded by angels.

In an age well before cut-price airline deals, he could have bottled out. The dream could have remained a pretty picture etched on the inside of his head, offering him warm, fuzzy feelings on cold winter nights.

But Brendan was compelled to embark on his voyage and follow his dream on the high seas.

The sense of journey was deeply rooted within the Celtic mindset. Some Celtic Christians travelled around these islands and into Europe, while others went on to places where the faith hadn't yet been established.

Their wanderings 'for the love of Christ' led to separation from all they held dear. Many pilgrims travelled for years and never returned home. They felt called by God to follow the example of Abraham and the apostle Paul. They followed the 'wild goose', a Celtic image of the Holy Spirit.

For Brendan, there were stark practicalities. It meant building a boat of wood and hide, not vastly unlike the currachs still made in Kerry today. With a bunch of companions - some say 18, others say 150, or somewhere in between - he set sail from Brandon Creek.

If a great saint had to choose the ideal launchpad for an epic journey, surely this would be it - a picturesque inlet, carved by God out of the coastline, almost for this very purpose.

The band of pilgrims sailed westward, into the unknown. During a seven-year voyage, they had incredible experiences: carried on the back of sea monsters; encountering 'crystals that rose up to the sky'; and - somewhat alarmingly - 'pelted with flaming, foul-smelling rocks by the inhabitants of a large island'.

They finally reached a beautiful place with luxuriant vegetation, the Promised Land of the Saints. Later, they returned home, having accomplished their mission.

It's not just a 'ripping yarn', as modern day adventurer Michael Palin would put it. This wasn't just the voyage of a navigator, but a spiritual journey. Within the adventure of exploration would have been the ongoing discovery of



HIS LEATHER CRAFT COULD HAVE MADE THE JOURNEY

the saint



scriptures, and of the cycle of prayer central to monastic life.

This was also about one person, consumed with a love for God, responding to a prophetic call on his life. And all he had was a dream.

What is the shape of the church to come? We don't know for sure. We have glimpses - both from scripture and prophetic words. They give us fresh excitement of what God can do.

These are God's travel brochures. He's showing us pictures of the places we could get to. That is, if we really want to. Like Brendan - explorer, pilgrim, restless wanderer - we are tempted to pursue the wild imaginings of God.

The challenge would be softened if Brendan's adventure remained a myth. It would still be a stirring tale. But it would fail to deliver us from our IKEA-strewn living rooms and cast us off into the great unknown.

Yet, dare we dismiss it?

In 1976, navigation scholar Tim Severin embarked from Brandon Creek. He used a currach that he made from Brendan's design. His goal was to determine if the saint's epic voyage was possible.

They tanned ox-hides with oak bark, stretched them across the wood frame, sewed them with leather thread, and smeared the hides with animal fat to give water resistance.

Severin examined nautical charts, and concluded that Brendan's route would be governed by the prevailing winds that would take him across the northernmost part of the Atlantic. Such a path would take him close to Iceland and Greenland, with a possible arrival at Newfoundland.

The crew were surprised at how friendly the whales were that they encountered. The great mammals swam around and even under their boat, probably mistaking the vessel for a fellow whale.

It makes Brendan's account of a sea monster lifting their currach, slightly more believable. Even today, in Dingle Bay, not far from the saint's hometown, scores of tourists daily sail out to watch 'Fungie' the dolphin play alongside their boats.

Severin's team found what Brendan may have referred to as 'The Paradise of Birds', when they encountered thousands of seabirds at the Danish Faroe Islands. They wintered in Iceland, whose volcanoes may well have been erupting in Brendan's day, probably accounting for the 'flaming, foul-smelling rocks'.

Their boat was punctured by floating ice -

icebergs may have been Brendan's 'towering crystals' - off the coast of Canada. They fixed it by sewing a piece of leather over the hole, and landed at Newfoundland on 26th June, 1977.

It's not conclusive proof that Brendan discovered America. But it did confirm that his leather craft could have made the journey, as told in the ancient texts. In West Virginia, archaeologists have also found stone carvings written in Old Irish, possibly cut by Celtic missionaries who also followed Brendan's route.

We can follow our dreams, and set sail with them. Indeed, we must. What else do we have? For when God gives us a vision, it imparts life to us. How can we resist such divine magnetism?

The journey will be challenging, exciting, even frightening. Later, just as Severin did for Brendan, others may follow in our wake, confirming that what we did was true. That way, our dream could affect succeeding generations.

A former US President summed up the full impact of Brendan's vision. On his visit to Ireland in 1984, Ronald Reagan said:

'Legend has it that St Brendan, a man of God, pushed back the boundaries of knowledge and explored new worlds. Brendan discovered a new world which offered a second chance to mankind.'

'Fourteen centuries later, Brendan was followed by millions of his sons and daughters. They sought the opportunity to live free from hunger and repression. As we sail into the unknown waters of the future, we will follow Brendan's mast and go forth with faith and courage towards new horizons together.'

The prize may be too great for us to ignore. Divine visitation? Spiritual awakening? Just maybe.

Clive Price is Consultant Editor of Compass. Thanks to the Irish Tourist Board for their assistance with this feature.

**WE CAN FOLLOW OUR
DREAMS, AND SET
SAIL WITH THEM**

BURTON BOOM

A church that's trebled in size? To over 300 in two-and-a-half years? What's the secret? Nick Pettingale shares a few insights from Burton Community Church

LIKE many others we'd 'been in the river'. Seeking to flow with the refreshing of God's Holy Spirit, we prepared for longer meetings. However, also like many others, we went 'back to normal'. So we decided to make 'space' again for Jesus.

In New Testament times, the gospel came with a power encounter from God - not simply an intellectual exposition. Most of the epistles were written to help the Church understand what God had just done in their gathering, rather than provide them with material to preach each week!

So we booked the school hall from 9.30am to 2.30pm to give God real time to do whatever he wanted to. We try to come already praising, worshipping and praying, and not require the usual 45-minute 'warm-up'.

PRAY LIKE CRAZY

Cell leaders gather at 9.30am for teaching and input. Then we pray like crazy. We call for people to 'get saved', healed and right with God every week, regardless of the sermon. That's what we now expect, and that's what we get.

We've never prayed and fasted so much. The leadership all fast on a rota every day. Teams of intercessors are springing up all over the church. I've never known a time like this.

Humbly opening up our lives to each other is a clear act of war in a society that perpetuates independence. Everyone who attends a cell also has a prayer partner. They get together weekly to ask questions like:

- 'how's your prayer life?';
- 'is there any habitual sin you're struggling with?';
- 'how are your relationships?'

HOT FOR GOD

When that level of accountability flows through the church, you stay hot for God and humble - or you leave! If ever there was a time to get serious and stop messing, it's now.

There's an almost universal understanding in the church that the message concerning Jesus receives a ready ear when accompanied by power, love,

compassion and a serving attitude.

The problem so often isn't the message, or the lost, but rather our fears and inhibitions. When an atmosphere is created where you can fail and not get kicked out of church, when you see people getting right with God and sorted out on a weekly basis, then these fears do begin to ebb away.

One young drug user left his local drug den one day in July - and had an open vision at midday on the streets of a nearby village. He saw his life as rooms in a house filled to the ceiling with rotting garbage, and claimed he heard Jesus say that he and he alone was the answer.

The young man knelt down in the street and gave his life over to God. That guy is now an integral part of the church. However, it's important to understand what undergirds stories such as this. His mum, a church member, prayed sacrificially for her son for seven years.

GIVE AWAY MINISTRIES

Our youth cells began in 1998 with 25 teenagers, and finished the year with all cells multiplying to a total membership of around 60. Most 'New Churches' are led by people aged 40 plus and we're in as much danger of holding onto that leadership for dear life, as any generation before us.

The great challenge is to facilitate church among our children and teenagers, giving them a real place of influence and power, unashamedly pouring resources into them, giving them access to the highest quality of training.

We need to give away our ministries and make sure this next generation are 'fathered' in a way that many of us wish we had been.

There's a price to pay. But in reality it's no price at all - because the net result of praying, holy and passionate lives is to know him more and be known by him.

Nick Pettingale is senior leader of Burton Community Church. His article has been adapted from a feature he wrote for Cell Church UK magazine.

IS THERE A FUTURE *for revival?*

In a world where all aspects of life are being shaken to the core, Patrick Dixon examines the prospects for a spiritual awakening

WE LIVE at an extraordinary time in human history. Over the last couple of decades more people have found faith in Christ than ever before in such a short time, in many developing nations at a rate far faster than the population explosion.

At the same time a huge shaking is taking place as we enter a third millennium. Every aspect of life is being radically transformed. Are the two connected? And if so, what of the future for revival?

Jesus criticised the leaders of his day for not interpreting the signs of the times. So what are the signs of our own age? They can be grouped under six headings, spelling the word FUTURE.

FAST

Our world is accelerating. A dioxin scare in Belgium means that days later a chicken farmer in Italy has to destroy three million birds because no-one wants to eat them. A Russian currency crisis means Scottish hill farmers can't get £2 for a whole sheep. The web revolution means that at least a third in our churches with office jobs already use e-mail.

Technology is driving change. I have an injectable PC in my pocket - the size of a grain of rice. A processor, memory, transmitter and receiver. It needs no battery and will last 100 years.

One-and-a-half million were made last year and many readers already have them in their homes - as pet passports in cats and dogs. My wife bought it for me but doesn't want me to use it because she doesn't want to be married to a bionic man.

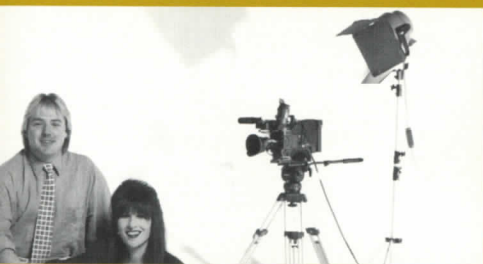
What does 'fast' mean for revival? Changes in attitudes, lifestyle and faith can sweep a nation or a continent like never before - driven by a mobile, media-influenced culture that expects rapid, revolutionary change, and is coping with uncertainty.

The rapid spread of the Toronto Blessing in the 90s is part of that pattern. Similar global waves of new experience of faith become more likely - whether of Christianity or other religions.

**CHANGES IN FAITH
CAN SWEEP A NATION
LIKE NEVER BEFORE**

RADICAL: Revival could influence governments - Prime Minister Tony Blair and wife Cherie have given their support to the Christian-backed National Marriage Week.





UNIVERSAL: Revival could spread through the use of media like satellite TV. Pictured here are Wendy and Rory Alec, Pioneers of the Christian Channel.

URBAN

Ours is the dawning age of the megacity, with sprawling slums, poor health and zero facilities. It is also the age of decaying social fabric in developed nations. If previous trends continued, we would all land up divorced before we had even got married and all of us would be products of broken homes.

Eight per cent of all international trade by value is illegal drugs. We spend a billion pounds a year putting children into care. Something has to change.

In terms of revival, great spiritual awakenings have often taken place at crisis points in national life, when large numbers of people face personal challenges.

TRIBAL

Tribalism is the most powerful human force in the world today, driving wars inside countries as in

Kosovo/Yugoslavia, as well as fanatical loyalty to football teams, fashion houses, and religious sects.

In an age where relationships are falling apart there is an even more intense need to belong. As old community networks break down, they are being replaced by other social nets - including those strengthened by virtual technologies such as the phone and e-mail.

When revival comes it will spread in more diffuse ways than before - rather than as in previous ages street by street, village by village. Revival movements have always been tribal, with their own history and culture.

So what does that mean? It means we could see a huge revival among - say - black Pentecostal churches and the networks they serve, leaving white

inner city networks relatively untouched. An example recently has been the huge growth in Korean churches in London, as a direct result of networks from South Korea.

And that means revival will be less easy to see using traditional methods - for example measuring church attendance in a town.

You could find over two million have given their lives to God over just a couple of years - rivalling anything in the previous century in Britain - but because this large group is scattered across several nations, the phenomenon is almost invisible. That is, unless accompanied by simultaneous revivals in many other networks in the same country at the same time.

UNIVERSAL

Globalisation, McDonalds everywhere, English has become the global language and Christianity is the dominant world religion.

American culture with all its defects - and some of its Christian foundational values such as human rights - is becoming the world standard against which all distinctive cultures are measured. That again sets the stage for truly global people movements that break out of mere tribal networks to embrace hundreds of millions of people.

If America is gripped by a spiritual awakening deep enough to impact the output of Hollywood and broadcast TV, it will have a huge global effect on values.

RADICAL

When revival comes, many governments could be very vulnerable

to its transforming influence. The reason is the massive ideology vacuum following the collapse of communism and the socialist dream - together with the debunking of the capitalist myth.

Left and right politics are dead and buried. What is replacing it is populism. Blair and Clinton are populists. They believe they have been elected by the people to serve the people and the people should be listened to.

That means war in Kosovo by opinion poll, legislation by opinion poll. It means Government policy changes from day to day - according to the changing national mood.

Very small numbers of activists now have extraordinary power. Take the recent U-turns on human cloning and genetically modified food.

The Government's advisors produced a report recommending that human cloning for research be approved. Downing Street consulted opinion polls and found the nation very uneasy.

The committee report was shredded, the entire committee sacked, a new one formed to report in an election year - and who would risk going down in history as the Prime Minister of human cloning?

The issue for the moment is dead, killed off by a few with a vigorous, relentless media campaign. GM food is going the same way - fast.

In the last election we saw leading politicians seeking to outdo each other in public Christian-ness - because all politicians are populists and they sensed early the change in public mood. Life-changing faith has become a vote winner.





**PEOPLE MAY NOT
KNOW OUR GOD - BUT
THEY LOVE OUR
VALUES**

TRIBAL: Revival could be triggered among young people through the music of such bands as DC Talk - whose albums sell by the truckload, and whose impact has been noted by 'Time' magazine.

ETHICS

Morals matter. How do we survive in a world that's so fast, urban, tribal, universal and radical? Ethics is about values, relationships, purpose, destiny and spirituality. This is an area of intense interest because it is the first area to be touched in any revival, and emptiness here leads to spiritual openness.

There has never been a time in the last 30 years when there has been so much willingness to listen to a common-sense Christian point of view - whether on the nature of family, child welfare, human cloning,

managing people, drug addiction or integrity in public life or the answer to AIDS.

People may not know our God. But they love our values. And willingness to embrace and promote our values is only a very short step away from intense curiosity about the source of all those values.

The lesson of history is that the pendulum is always swinging except for a millisecond at each extreme. There are many pendulums in any nation but there are real signs that the pendulum has already changed direction - or is very close to its

outer limit.

Even without the eye of faith, it's not difficult to see that a huge shift could take place in a very short time in terms of Christian commitment affecting millions of people. Such things have happened before.

Dr Patrick Dixon is Director of Global Change Ltd, and has addressed leaders on future trends. He is internationally respected for his research and analysis that have resulted in such books as - *The Truth About AIDS, The Genetic Revolution, The Truth About Westminster and Signs Of Revival.*

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train man



Was he a grubby, unwashed angel, with gall bladder problems and a Me Jeff Lucas could only guess the identity of this fellow passenger who put

SYMBOLISM IS RICH - AND EASY

HE HAS no name. I have him tagged in my mental filing cabinet under 't' for Train Man. We have met twice.

My knowledge of Homosapius Railtrack is scant. His large frame ages him at somewhere between 30 and 50. He lives somewhere in the Chichester area. He is red-faced and rotund. He's not gifted in the art of shaving. And he isn't at all on friendly terms with soap.

He wears his belt askew and his flies very much undone, even in the chill of winter. He is a devotee of Transcendental Meditation in particular and anything mildly 'new agey' in general.

We first met a year ago. I had planned my railway journey with meticulous, even military precision. My bag was over-stuffed with dog-eared papers, laptop computer, mobile phone, and other accessories of pressure.

Determined to make the best use of time, I'd even visited the Gentlemen's prior to boarding the train, thus saving me time and exempting me from the need to hold my breath and fight my way into the putrid, toxic zone otherwise known as the Connex South Central toilet.

I was feeling alive, efficient, and, quite frankly, fairly spiritually attuned. Only the night before I had experienced a heavy 'double-really' encounter with God, during which I had affirmed - I mean really, really affirmed - my desire to be more openly evangelistic in my personal life.

I opened the laptop lid and punched 'on'. And suddenly Train Man climbed into my carriage, struggled to slam the door behind him, and sat down opposite me, even though there were many empty seats.

I stared intently at the computer screen, which was still blank. The computer was still starting. He

started immediately. Train Man is one of those people that the politically incorrect would describe as 'simple'. By that, I mean he apparently engages everyone he meets in avid conversation, as if they were old friends.

How strange that, in our techno-lonely culture, that a willingness to socialise should be seen as a sign of poor mental health.

He started in, unfazed by my staring obsession with the still wretchedly blank screen. No 'nice day isn't it/makes a change to see some sunshine/is this the Victoria train?' prelude for him. He plunged clumsily into my life with both huge feet.

'What are you doing?' he demanded, a warm smile softening the abruptness of the question, a sudden display of crooked, yellow teeth.

'I'm writing an article about Christianity,' I replied, feeling an immediate rush of smugness that I had lined up with all of the martyrs of the faith in my bold affirmation.

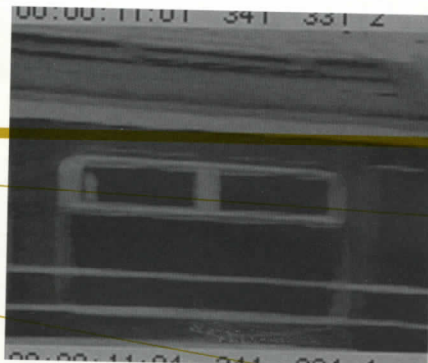
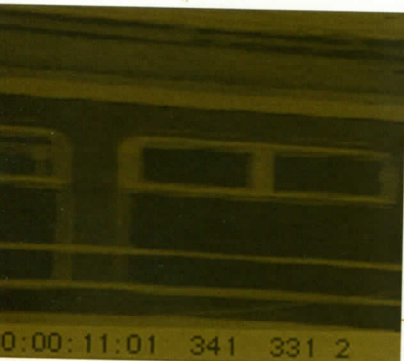
'You don't believe all that stuff, do you?' he shot back, no nervous trepidation in his voice. The laptop told me that Windows was made in 1995 and was now ready to receive my wisdom. One eye on the screen, one eye on Train Man, I confirmed that I did believe in the Jesus stuff and, with a deep breath, enquired as to why he didn't.

I didn't really want to know. I wanted to work.

But for the next 20 minutes he told me about his spirituality, about his feeling that Christians had no right to claim exclusive rights to God. The laptop beeped and my mobile phone rang twice, but he hardly paused for breath.

**THE COMPARTMENT
FILLED WITH THE
MUSTY, SOUR
SMELL OF AN
UNWASHED BODY**

Worthing station came, and he went. But, after slamming the door behind him, he came back to yell a



**HE PLUNGED
CLUMSILY INTO
MY LIFE WITH
BOTH HUGE FEET**

adone dependency?

compassionate evangelism to the test

few more of his jumbled thoughts through the open window, loud but kind. Then, as the train inched and shuddered away, he stood and waved me goodbye, like a farewell for an old friend.

I forgot all about Train Man. Until yesterday.

I had spoken on Sunday about evangelism. 'I am not ashamed of the gospel' was the text from the first chapter of Romans. We smashed clay pots at the end of the talk, signifying our determination to 'let our light shine'. Symbolism is rich - and easy.

Monday morning found me on the London train, animatedly engaged in conversation with a professional lady - 'in publishing, actually' - who was bound for a business meeting in East Grinstead - 'East Grin, actually'. We talked back and forth about doing up houses and builders and living in lovely Chichester and the like.

And then, the compartment door slid open - and in stepped Train Man, his belt positioned just below his nipples, and his open fly impossibly, hugely gaping. He didn't recognise me, probably because of countless thousands of conversations since our first meeting, yet he greeted me and the lady bound for Grin like old friends.

Stealing a millisecond glance at the black hole in his trousers, the lady turned discreetly away. I said hello and stared hopefully at my shoes.

And in the next 20 minutes he informed me about his gallstones and the medication his doctor had given him and would I take Methadone? And he showed me his brand new ivory ying-yang ring, surely worth a lot but picked up for a mere fiver from a mate, which was amazing seeing as ivory was a precious metal, wasn't it?

Elephant tusk, I said, and thought about mentioning his unemployed zipper.

The compartment filled with the musty, sour

smell of an unwashed body. Grin wrinkled her nose and scowled her disapproval. Train Man talked on. I urged the train on towards Worthing with a prayerful whip.

Train Man looked into my eyes. His own quizzical, smiling eyes seeming to reach down into my soul, as if he knew that he was an inconvenience, an odd ball, as if he knew that I would quite like him to go away.

He couldn't be an angel, could he, showing up as he does every time I wax eloquent or seriously pray about evangelism? A grubby, unwashed angel, with gall bladder problems and a Methadone dependency? A seraph with a ying yang ring and a heavenly disinterest in fly buttons and toothbrushes?

No, he's probably not an angel.

He is Jesus, according to Jesus. Giving him a cup of cold water - or the time of day - is like giving the same to Christ, according to the Gospel. Of course, in that sense, Grin with the St Trinians' voice is Jesus, too. Bias to the poor does not permit us to be prejudiced against the rich. All need the gospel.

Smashing pots and yelling in tongues is easier, but we talked back and forth, Train Man and I. Worthing came again, and he went again, no farewell wave this time.

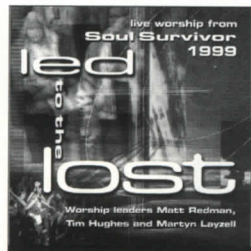
And as the train jolted and shuddered its way to London, I wondered what the world would be like, if every Christian on earth treated every other human being as if he or she was Jesus himself.

Revival?

Jeff Lucas is a speaker and Bible teacher with an international ministry. He heads Pioneer's training initiatives Equipped To Lead and Context, and is part of the oversight team at Revelation Church. He is also Vice President of the Evangelical Alliance.

soundbites

with sue rinaldi



LED TO THE LOST

Live Worship From Soul Survivor 99 (Survivor Records)

The recordings from Soul Survivor always guarantee great corporate worship songs. This offering is no different.

Highlights include: *Thank You For The Blood* and *O Sacred King* from Matt Redman; *Devoted* by Martyn Layzell and an excellent song called *A Life Of Love* from David Gate - definitely a songwriter to look out for.

Reflective songs sit comfortably with the high-octane *Undignified* and an interesting 'have mercy mix' of *Can A Nation*. The instrumentation behind the spontaneous song *Beauty For Ashes* begins to inject something just a little different into the music - a tiny glimpse of a road well worth exploring. **SR**



RE.VIVE

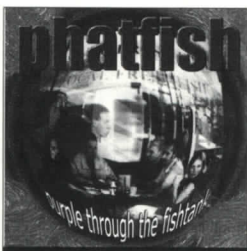
re.vive99@stoneleighlive

Another resource for corporate worship songs that also gives you a taste of the live re.vive environment.

Most of the songs are new - apart from *What A Friend*. Tracks that climb higher than the rest include *We Bow Down*, penned by Jess Humphries, and *Jesus Our Passion Is For You*, co-written by Paul Booth and Adam Holt. Also, *In The Shadow Of The*

Cross by Paul Oakley is a good song and contains nice dynamic and geography of sound. Oakley's contribution generally provides music with harder-edge guitars and less melodic tunes than Soul Survivor 99, whereas Paul Booth and Andy Ferrett, the other worship leaders, sound a little more vulnerable and rounded.

The spontaneous song is slightly more intricate than usual and is sung really well and takes on a good shape. Nice to hear a girl vocal. **SR**



PURPLE THROUGH THE FISHTANK

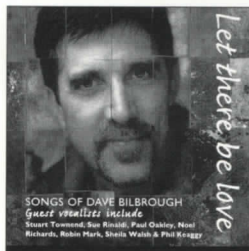
Phatfish (Pamplin Music)

Mixed and produced in Nashville, *Purple Through The Fishtank* gives Phatfish an identity quite different from their past recordings. It's less acid jazz and more mainstream with edge creeping in.

All the songs are written by members of the band and speak of God's love and mercy. Lou Fellingham's voice exhibits real flexibility and good range.

I like the pulsating programming behind *Resolve* (the most innovative song on the album) and the quirkiness in *What Love* - which explodes into a likeable chorus.

Help You has a good dynamic and chorus and *What Would I Do* begins beautiful and sparse and transcends into an almost progressive-rock guitar solo. Some of the other songs meander just a little and amid many winning factors, it could just be that their songwriting needs a little tweak here and there. Overall...good work, Phatfish. **SR**



LET THERE BE LOVE

Various artists (Survivor Records)

This recording honours 25 years of Dave Bilbrough as a worship leader and songwriter. It hardly seems that long does it?

Some of his best known songs such as *Abba Father*, *So Freely, I Am A New Creation* and *All Hail The Lamb* are mingled with the lesser known *As We Seek* and *Forevermore*.

Each song is given the Mark Edwards treatment, who's known for his production and programming talents and utilised by so many other artists. You'll enjoy the *Name That Song* quiz that can be played on first listening and the fresh enthusiasm and groove given to each track.

The tracks are sung by guest artists including Sheila Walsh, Vanessa Freeman and even Dave's son Jon. The list is endless! **SR**



PEACE

Eurythmics (Arista)

I can hardly believe they're back. I waved goodbye to them in my heart many years ago and didn't dare hope their music would one day spin again.

Well, not only have they recorded a new album but also they're venturing out on tour supporting Greenpeace and Amnesty International. So has it been worth the wait? An

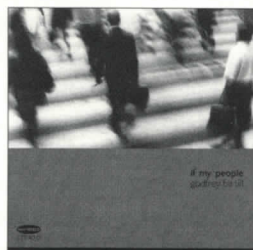
overwhelming - 'Of course it has'.

Peace kicks off with a great track 17 *Again*, featuring a tiny rendition of *Sweet Dreams* at the end...clever. There's still poignancy in the lyrics, heard in *I Saved The World*, *Power To The Meek* and *Anything But Strong*.

Annie's voice still contains a unique attitude soaked in pathos best shown in the vulnerable songs like *Beautiful Child* and *My True Love* - and Dave Stewart's contribution is unmistakable.

Production isn't flamboyant. There are some tasty strings and great songs - particularly the title track. Ultimately, *Peace* is not pretentious. It feels honest and they appear to care about issues higher than their music.

SR



IF MY PEOPLE

Godfrey Birtill (Whitefield Music)

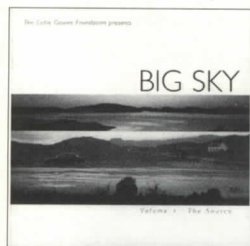
Here is a live recording of new songs and worship recorded during Sowing Seeds Of Revival meetings at The Oaks Christian Centre, Dronfield, Sheffield.

Godfrey is putting to music the wave of spiritual revival that's happening in the northern part of England and also in Wales. He attributes his ideas to the song-igniting ministries of Dale Gentry, Martin Scott, Peter Lyne and Steve Chalke.

The stand-out track is *The Note Of Jesus* - great lyrical idea and strong tune. After listening to this album you get the idea that Godfrey's songs are a mouthpiece for many who long to see these islands affected by the love and healing touch of Jesus. **SR**

Wordplay

BIG SKY



VOLUME 1: THE SOURCE

Big Sky (Survival Records)

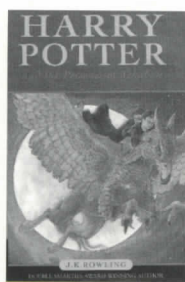
Warning: this is not traditional music! So reads the slogan on the back of this debut album from two core members of popular Scottish band Capercaillie.

To ease the listener in gently, the opening track *Golden Hair* is reminiscent of the mother band. Then most comparisons stop. The rest is an exploration of 21st century textures, using traditional and roots musicians.

Capercaillie did some of that, followed by Afro-Celt Sound System and others. *Big Sky* travel a similar road, mixing Celtic stuff with country, choral samples, 90s pop, eastern chants, rock and anything else they could find in the kitchen.

It's another key stage in the exciting development of mainstream Celtic music. It cannot stand still, for that would go against the very essence of what it means to be Celtic. The secret is to siphon off the most intoxicating of the traditional brews, and mix them with sparkling new beverages. Bit like church, eh? **CP**

Music reviewers: Clive Price, Sue Rinaldi



HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN

J K Rowling (Bloomsbury Publishing)

The third instalment of the chart-busting Harry Potter stories is the tale of 13-year-old Harry whose mum and dad were killed by the dark arts lord, Voldemort. As if that wasn't bad enough, Harry's godfather Sirius Black seems to have helped to do the dirty deed.

Harry Potter is a wizard apprentice and is in his third year at Hogwarts Wizardry School. Just when things can surely get no worse, Harry hears that his godfather has come to his school to kill him too, and rumour has it that he's accompanied by a Grim (a large black dog that kills people!).

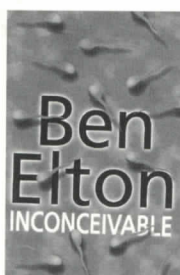
Because the teachers all know that Black has escaped from Azkaban (the wizard prison) and is coming after Harry, they put Dementors (guards from Azkaban) all around Hogwarts' grounds to make sure Black can't get into the school.

The story is then set up to see what happens to Harry when he goes after Sirius. Harry spends the whole book encountering amazing adventures - even going back in time to save a friend.

What I love about *The Prisoner Of Azkaban* is that it's so good, you just want to read on and on. It also makes you so tense, so that when your mum or dad tell you to turn out the lights you just carry on reading, sitting on the end of your bed.

I think *The Prisoner of Azkaban* is the best book to date because it is so exciting, and is even more gripping than the two books before (*The Philosopher's Stone* and *The Chamber Of Secrets*).

You read chapter one and it gets so exciting and funny. Aunt Marge comes around and Harry accidentally inflates her! By the third chapter you're itching to read on. **MP**



INCONCEIVABLE

Ben Elton

If you're a fan of Ben Elton you'll no doubt enjoy his latest literary offering. The plot centres around a professional London-based couple, Sam and Lucy.

After five unsuccessful years of trying to start a family, they find themselves looking to the medical profession along with some humorous mystical alternatives. All this comes at a time when both of them come up against major, but very different challenges in the workplace.

Sam is a frustrated BBC Commissioner wrestling with internal politics, the changing climate in his industry and a newly-appointed boss two years his junior. His own writing skills appear to have deserted him, and he desperately needs the inspiration to achieve his dream of writing a hit movie.

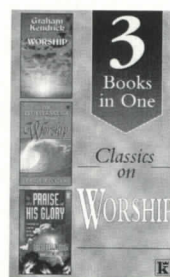
Lucy works for an agency that handles actors and actresses. She believes the main purpose of her life up till now has been to prepare her for motherhood, only motherhood is proving somewhat elusive. Can help from the medical world or an eccentric 'new-age' friend help?

As Sam and Lucy journey into the world of fertility treatment and all that's involved, they find the spotlight being shone upon their emotions and motivations. The combined stress of this and their

workplace pressures begin to test their relationship at all levels. Is what they've got good enough to survive?

The book has been written in a sort of diary-journal form that lends itself to profound and at times hilarious male-female insights. The characters and plot are well crafted, resulting in a very easy read. It's the kind of book that can comfortably be read over a weekend or short Mediterranean holiday.

In typical Ben Elton-style, he tackles the issues raised head-on. The book is simultaneously laugh-out-loud funny and incredibly poignant. Elton has built up a reputation for being one of the UK's most topical, significant, entertaining and provocative writers. This book affirms that. **PD**



CLASSICS ON WORSHIP

Graham Kendrick, Chris Bowater, Dave Fellingham (Kingsway)

Do you want the low-down on worship? This is the closest thing you'll get. And it's not bad, either.

In one massive omnibus edition, you get the complete text of three classic books on the subject - *Worship* by Graham Kendrick, *The Believer's Guide To Worship* by Chris Bowater and *To The Praise Of His Glory* by Dave Fellingham.

The three writers touch on almost every aspect of worship - from the practicalities of choosing the right songs for a meeting, to the big themes of revival. This is a near-definitive handbook for worshippers, musicians and leaders. **CP**

Reviewers: Phil Dumayne, Clive Price, Molly Pritchard (age nine)

whose millennium is it,
anyway?

GOD IS
SO
GOOD

Year 2000:

the culmination of one of
the biggest grassroots
initiatives ever
undertaken by the
Church.

**ON A GREY,
RAINY DAY
IN 1987
MARCH FOR
JESUS WAS
BORN**

Ann Clifford pays tribute
to the millions who have
marched for Jesus



ALMOST 2,000 years ago a baby was born. The consequences of that birth, his subsequent life, death and eventual resurrection changed the world.

Jesus Christ was born into a world full of religiosity, oppression, injustice, abuse, invasion and political manoeuvring. He heralded personal relationship with the Living God, eternal life, hope amid despair, brought power to the powerless, freedom to the oppressed, and the possibility of order out of the chaos of humanity.

Thirteen years ago something else was birthed that continued the vast heritage of proclamation emanating from the Jesus of history. That vision was encapsulated by Graham Kendrick's song *We'll Walk The Land*:

**TWO THOUSAND YEARS
AND STILL THE FLAME
IS BURNING BRIGHT
ACROSS THE LAND.
HEARTS ARE WAITING,
LONGING, ACHING,
FOR AWAKENING
ONCE AGAIN.**

On a grey, rainy day in 1987 March for Jesus was born. At that time it didn't have a name or a future. The vision was seen as an opportunity for 1,000 or so Christians to gather together to pray for London and to see it touched by God.

When 15,000 people turned up, it became obvious that God himself was on the move on a far larger scale than anyone had realised. Gradually, March for Jesus took shape and became the global phenomenon it is now.

By 1998 over 50 million Christians from over 150 nations had taken part in March for Jesus in one form or another. Their united heart was to bring prayer, praise and proclamation to the streets of their nation.

**WE'LL WALK THE LAND
WITH HEARTS ON FIRE
AND EVERY STEP
WILL BE A PRAYER
HOPE IS RISING,
NEW DAY DAWNING
SOUND OF SINGING FILLS THE AIR.**

The seeds that were planted that first day grew at a remarkable rate. By 1994 the first Global March for Jesus took place involving more than 170 nations from Tonga in the Pacific right across Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas back to Western Samoa in the Pacific.

A new day had dawned and the sound of singing indeed filled the air. Reports came in of how God had changed lives, churches and whole cities. Even in the closed nations of the world - where Christians are regularly persecuted - MFJ has taken place in many forms.

**LET THE FLAME BURN BRIGHTER
IN THE HEART OF THE DARKNESS
TURNING NIGHT TO GLORIOUS DAY.
LET THE SONG GROW LOUDER
AS OUR LOVE GROWS STRONGER,
LET IT SHINE, LET IT SHINE.**

The flame has burned ever brighter in the heart of the darkness found in all nations. The song has grown louder and our passion for Jesus has grown stronger.

So what will be the culmination of 13 years of marching the globe in the year 2000? It will be a day to say that the new millennium belongs to Jesus - a day when more than 15 million people worldwide will take to the streets and proclaim Jesus as King in every nation.

It will be the biggest grassroots Christian celebration of the millennium year. The date for your diary? June 10th 2000 will be Jesus Day.

**WE'LL WALK FOR TRUTH,
SPEAK OUT FOR LOVE,
IN JESUS' NAME
WE SHALL BE STRONG;
TO LIFT THE FALLEN,
TO SAVE THE CHILDREN.**

**BY 1998
OVER 50
MILLION
CHRISTIANS
FROM OVER
150 NATIONS
HAD TAKEN
PART**



**IT WILL BE THE
BIGGEST
GRASSROOTS
CHRISTIAN
CELEBRATION**

As Jesus himself spoke so tenderly to children, and warned so emphatically against their abuse, it seemed appropriate that Jesus Day should launch a global prayer focus entitled 'The Millennium Child'.

It's estimated that 100 million children around the world have to fend for themselves, often on the streets. MFJ wants every march not only to pray for 'The Millennium Child', but also to take action for children.

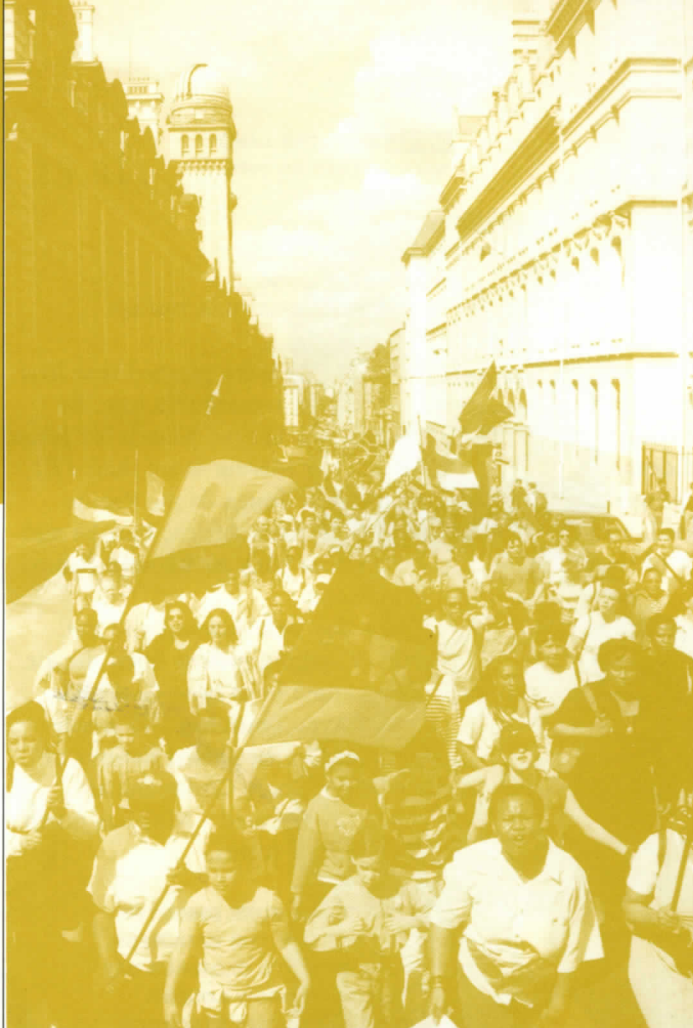
In Britain, MFJ will be in partnership with Tear Fund and their new 'children at risk' initiative. For other nations here again is the opportunity for the invention, creativity, and energy that's become the trademark of MFJ.

What an opportunity, through an expected kaleidoscope of expression, to show the world that God cares!

Global March for Jesus is not only woven into the history of the Church, but also has become part of the life of the Church. It leaves, among other things, a lasting contribution to unity in envisioning churches and denominations to come together to celebrate the person of Jesus.

What began as a once-a-year event, has resulted in many Christians worldwide using it as part of their ongoing prayer and witness. Whenever and wherever the Church wants to 'fill the nation, with his song', the legacy of March for Jesus will continue.

Ann Clifford works with March for Jesus as a staff writer. She originally trained in drama, and continues to work as a theatre director, educator and arts facilitator. Ann is currently specialising in screenplay writing. Lyrics from Graham Kendrick's song *We'll Walk The Land* (©1989 Make Way Music, PO Box 263, Croydon CR9 5AP. International copyright secured. All rights reserved. Used by permission).



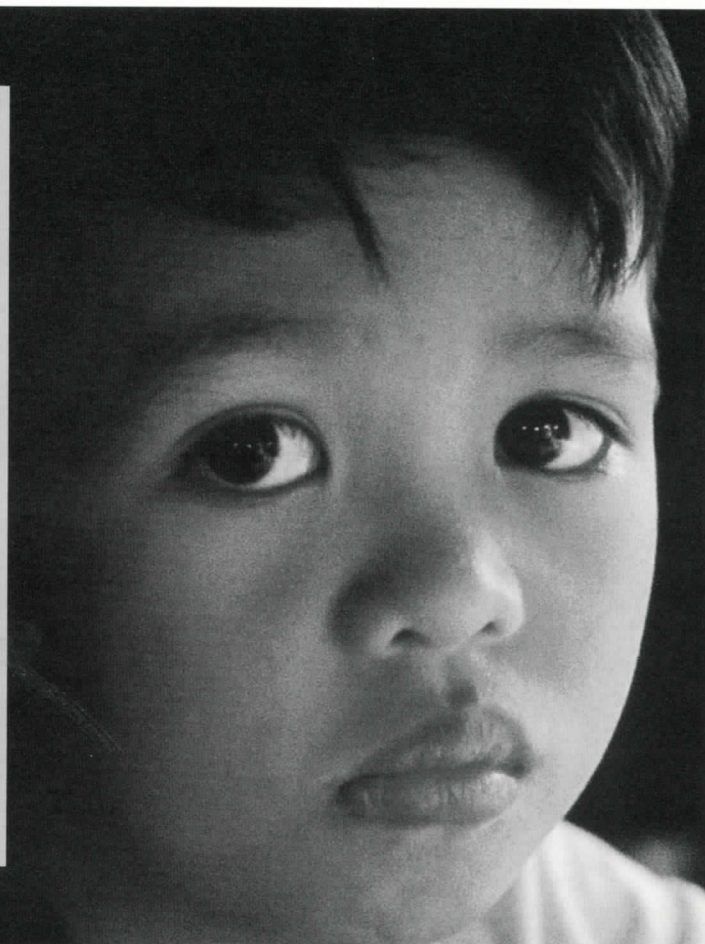
HOW THEY MARCH(ED) FOR JESUS...

Invention, creativity, dynamic energy, tremendous courage and unstoppable vision have caused MFJ to be expressed in a wide variety of ways - both seen and unseen. It has changed the way the Church worships and prays. Here are just some of the highlights:

- three million marching for Jesus in Brazil
- in Sao Paulo, MFJ is now a local holiday!
- in Japan 1998, 24 cities took part from Hiroshima to Tokyo
- Hong Kong has hosted prayer walking in each of its 30 districts
- in the USA, one million take to the streets every year, with local dignitaries often joining
- marches all over Europe
- closed nations/open nations, democracies and dictatorships
- nations which are happy to own the word 'Christian' and many that are not
- broadcast around the world on TV and radio
- over 150 nations, over 50 million people, over every continent

**MFJ WANTS
EVERY
MARCH TO
TAKE
ACTION FOR
CHILDREN**

How you can transform a child in Jesus' name



and begin to change the world

Sponsoring a child through Compassion is a one-to-one, one-by-one approach to changing the world - and it really works.

Compassion takes vulnerable children living in extreme poverty and - through sponsors like you - provides them with an escape route from poverty and the means to create a viable future.

Child, church, Compassion and you

We develop a unique partnership between the child, his or her local church, Compassion and you. Together we make sure this child's individual needs are met and that he or she has a real opportunity to reach their God-given potential. At Compassion we call this Christian child development. It's a commitment to an individual child in whose life you can play a vital role.

New with 50 years experience

For nearly 50 years Compassion has been transforming the lives of children and their communities. For the last 25 years, thousands of Christians in the UK have sponsored children in Compassion's programmes through a partnership with Tearfund. As part of the continuing development of Tearfund's and Compassion's ministry, we have both agreed that Compassion UK will now offer child sponsorship directly to British Christians.

Physical, emotional and spiritual

Compassion works through local churches on the ground, using their knowledge of the people in their area to identify those suffering the greatest need. We are committed to meeting the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of children. Every child is

encouraged - but never forced - to become an active disciple of Christ. Compassion-sponsored children tend to grow up with a real heart for the needs of their neighbours. They often become informed, influential leaders in their communities and begin to change their world.

Your next step

Here's your opportunity to change the world for one child. Just complete this coupon and post it to Compassion or call us on 01892 854 920. We'll send you (without obligation) the story and photo of a child you can sponsor, together with complete information on Compassion's international ministry. **You can sponsor a child for £15 a month - that's about 50p a day** - you can exchange letters, send modest gifts and provide personal encouragement to a child who otherwise might struggle to survive. Please contact us today.

Send your completed coupon to: Compassion UK FREEPOST
SEA8184 Crowborough TN6 3BR or call 01892 854 920

Yes, I would like to know more about sponsoring a child through Compassion.

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss)

Address

..... Postcode

Telephone

Compassion Christian Child Development
United Kingdom

COM/12/99

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