

Pioneer

Bulletin

Volume 3 Issue 2

SUMMER '85

UNITY — WHERE IS IT?
SCOTLAND PROFILE ON DUNDEE
RUSSIAN EVANGELISM



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Pioneer Enterprises

Pioneer Enterprises is an organisation, promoting and administering the ministry of Gerald Coates and his Team. The Bulletin brings news of related churches and projects and also serves to make audio tapes, video tapes and literature available. All churches and projects have their own individual identity but we realise that no one team, group of churches or ministries contains the necessary revelation, insight and ability to bring the church to the stature and effectiveness which God intends. We are looking to be, and are regularly involved with other ministries, teams and churches — in order to learn from them as well as to contribute.

How to get Pioneers

Pioneer Bulletin is published every 12 weeks. It exists to serve as a platform for Gerald Coates' ministry and to bring regular news of the projects he and his friends are involved in. Subscription is free but in order to avoid sending out unwanted bulletins you will be asked by letter each year if you wish to continue receiving the bulletin. Donations are welcome from individuals and fellowships and should be made out to Pioneer Enterprises and sent to: P.O. Box 80, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 2BQ. If you require a supply of Pioneer introductory leaflets to pass on to friends, drop us a line and we'll do the rest. If, having read this issue, you want your Christian Union, Youth Group or church fellowship to receive a bulk order (5 or more) please write for details. We have found that most people not only want to pay for their bulletin but support the work and projects of Pioneer Enterprises. Therefore we suggest a minimum donation of 30p for each bulk copy — plus postage and packing.

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Some of you will receive a letter with this issue informing you of the need to renew your subscription. Our financial policy is that we will send Pioneer Bulletin whether you can afford it or not — providing you ask for it. We do ask that those who wish to be kept in touch with what we are doing and who are able to contribute towards the cost of the publication, should act responsibly. Every Bulletin that is sent out, not covered by your donations, has to be covered by someone else's. We are happy to do this on the basis that there are some who receive it in underprivileged situations and countries who genuinely can't afford to send us anything. It costs almost £3 a year to design, print, package and post Pioneer Bulletin to each individual. Thanks for all of your help so far.

All enquiries and information: Pioneer Enterprises, P.O. Box 80, Cobham, Surrey KT11 2BQ.

EDITORIAL...

Unity, Scotland and Russia...

There is an interesting feel to this issue. Gerald writes about unity and articles look at Scotland and Russia. These are not as unrelated as they might seem.

Prejudice?

God does not recognise the boundaries that man has drawn upon maps. The whole earth belongs to him and one day his glory will cover this planet. Nationalistic barriers do exist but not in the purposes of God — his Kingdom will stretch from shore to shore! Yet I've lived most of my Christian experience with prejudices against Australians, the French, Americans (to be more accurate I should say Californians!) and the Irish, Welsh and Scots. There was nothing logical in my feelings, especially as I've never visited most of those countries. But, nevertheless I could not find anything positive to say about them. My attitude had nothing to do with the Kingdom of God or the truth about the Body of Christ.

I'm glad to say that things are different now. As Gerald writes, 'God allows us preferences but never prejudices'. But if I could have such negative feelings and yet at the same time preach and proclaim the Unity of the Body of Christ something was basically wrong. Anyone recognise the symptoms?

Unity

The New Testament is full of references to unity and how we should love one another. It is detailed in describing the practical attitudes that will help us to keep our unity. Attitudes like caring, kindness, forgiveness and patience.

We need to work out such down-to-earth practices as refusing to believe or speak evil of other people, to consider others better than ourselves and to allow our love to cover the sins of others. This won't happen overnight, but it should be our goal.

... but not uniformity

Our unity will not be based upon a uniformity of life-style, worship or doctrinal emphasis. But we can have a unity of love, compassion and commitment. This brings me

to Russia. Reading about Timothy Chmykhalov and Valeri Barinov challenges my thinking towards the Church that is experiencing persecution. I'm easily moved by what I read but then I soon forget! I'm aware that I need a fresh understanding of my unity with the Body of Christ in Russia and other places.

Of course the trap is to get into condemnation and make token responses that have nothing to do with the Spirit of God. Perhaps the key is found in Gerald's article, 'God is responsible for this idea of unity — so let's act responsibly'. If we are really willing to give attention to unity, then God will work!

Peter Sanderson



NEXT ISSUE:

The Dynamic Church — Rodney Kingstone
South Africa — report by Errol O'Brien
God did it for me — healing testimonies

YOUR LETTERS

SOLIHULL BANQUET

I want to encourage you — the Banquet did a great deal of good in Solihull. We have two couples in the Foundation Group as a direct result of the Banquet and four or five others are still showing interest in our meetings. One of the couples were on the verge of a break-up in their marriage. Their local G.P. suggested they came along to the evening. When the words of knowledge started to flow, the husband said it was as though no-one else was there but him — so he and his wife went forward for counselling. They committed their lives to Christ and have been coming to our fellowship ever since. They are also bringing friends and family along.

Another man and his wife came to the Banquet. A few months earlier she committed her life to Christ. Her husband was an atheist and a 'logical thinking' school teacher. He made it quite clear he was not interested in the church. He was more or less dragged along to the Banquet and boasted it wouldn't touch him, but it did. When his wife responded to be baptised in the Holy Spirit he left the theatre in great rage. He got in his car and sped up and down the M42 several times at 100 mph. On getting home he drank $\frac{3}{4}$ of a bottle of whisky and for some hours was in a very agitated state! We got a group of interested people together to pray and engage in spiritual warfare. Eventually around 7.30 am, he described amusingly, what he called a 'buzz' — a glowing inside which seemed to go through his skin and even to the ends of the hairs on his head. Since then he has made great strides — he's a changed man. His colleagues at school have seen such a change they are wanting to know what has happened to him. More and more staff have been interested and there are now

a dozen people who wish to come to his home to hear his testimony.

B. & J.P.
SOLIHULL, BIRMINGHAM

POWER OF THE SPIRIT

What a great time we had at Guildford! It can no longer be said that 'Many are ever learning and never coming to a knowledge of the truth!' What a demonstration to the world and demonic powers of the authority of the Church and the power of the Holy Spirit. Six of us were present from our fellowship — when Ian Andrews was at Millmead and a party of 20 or more came to the Saturday meetings. My sister was healed of a severe pain in her neck that she has suffered from for seven years. Apparently the hospital had given up trying to help her.

T.P.
BATTERSEA

IN PRAISE OF P.B.

I have become one of the nearly 4 million people unemployed and it is a pleasure and a tremendous privilege to be used by God in such circumstances. Thank you for Pioneer Bulletin. It is direct, it is to the point, it is relevant and says a lot of what God is saying to individuals and churches. We are opening a bookshop in our area and will be pleased to receive details of your publications, tapes and videos.

K.W.
ROTHERHAM, Yorks

ADMINISTRATION

I came to the Pioneer Administrators conference with many ideas as to my understanding of the work and ministry of an administrator. I believe that the work of administration is vital in the service of our elders, and that we should be concerned with people first and facts and figures second. I found the session on communication particularly helpful and also the one on setting up a team. I have so much new information to work with that it is difficult to choose out one particular area. The teaching on co-ordinating facts, figures and people gave me lots of new ideas and I'm giving my elders a draft copy of the notes. I'm in a new place as far as my church life is concerned.

S.P.
BURTON ON TRENT

OPENNESS

How much I enjoyed Festival! It was the first time I had been and I had been to another similar week before. I was encouraged to see the openness to other streams and denominations and to be reassured about the non-exclusive nature of those behind the organisation. The legalism which seems to have occurred in some charismatic circles caused a great deal of trouble in our fellowship and

as a result I backslid and got into all sorts of things. So I came to Festival and I must say I felt a warmth of love coming from those on stage which I had not felt at other such gatherings. God healed me of rejection and released me from a stronghold that Satan had on me. I was filled with the Spirit and encouraged to move on in my music making and songwriting. God also showed me I had wrong attitudes towards certain people — the list is endless.

V.S.
CHELMSFORD, Essex

KIDNEYS HEALED

Great things have happened since the Ian Andrews meetings at Guildford. Ever since I was three months old (and I'm now almost 17) my kidneys have been deteriorating. In October 1984 I went to a healing meeting, but following a check up things weren't going so well. But I was baptised with the Holy Spirit and in fact had received healing as was confirmed at a later check-up in December. Early on this year I got more results and my kidneys are starting to recover. Praise the Lord!

S.K.
TWICKENHAM, Middx

HEALED OF ARTHRITIS

The Saturday afternoon at Guildford's Civic Hall with Ian Andrews was quite incredible. In the afternoon I was healed from rejection and bitterness of many years standing. I've pushed these into the background of my life and in the last 12 months these made me feel more of a hypocrite than ever. I was teaching others of God's fatherly love but was unable to accept it myself.

In the evening I was healed of arthritis in my hips and hands. The swelling and lumps on my hands have all gone and I've had arthritis for about 8 years.

My neighbour who is agnostic, has often helped out in the past with things because of my hands — she almost fainted when she saw my hands, healed — a proof to her that God now exists. Also when people have said and done things that would normally have made me feel quite 'rejected' I haven't felt that way. Sufficient to say that the fact I was at your meeting at all was amazing, normally I would never have gone to a healing service.

H.A.
GUILDFORD, Surrey

DELIVERANCE

Thank you for the article 'Taking ground from Satan' — how important teaching on evangelism is today. It has challenged and stimulated me. I'm thrilled to say that last summer — a demon spirit of rejection violently left me amongst heavy sobs of emotion. Never before have I experienced something going out of me. It has always been the

other way — receiving something from God! C.H.
ALTON, Hants

FANTASTIC!

I just want to let you know that I found the contents of the talk at your leadership conference 'fantastic'. I can't think of any other way of putting it. I find I have a much healthier perspective of God, myself and life in general when I heard what you had to say.

B.R.
GUILDFORD, Surrey

SAUSAGE MACHINE!

Thank you for a much needed and overdue book depicting Christianity today in 'What on Earth is This Kingdom?' I thoroughly enjoyed its contents. I suppose for a long time I was caught up with the idea that since becoming a Christian, I would ultimately have to join the ranks of the 'sausage machine' — all coming out the same! Believe me there's nothing that would have put me off more than to imagine that I would one day have to become an actor submitting an audience to scenes of an 'All too well known play'. I'm a comparatively young Christian and found God as I tried to take my life. I have become quite sick of the falseness in the lives of many Christians who seem to be super-spiritual know-it-alls or legal law-abiding goody-goodies. Now for me there exists another category which I found in this book. Two days after coming here I found myself overflowing in the Holy Spirit. This is our Kingdom. Reality and truth which I found evident in 'What on Earth is This Kingdom?'

J.M.
MAZE PRISON, N. Ireland

A CRY FOR HELP

I am writing to tell you about my incredibly frustrating situation because the book 'What on Earth is This Kingdom?' seems to touch the button of truth inside me.

I was led to a local Christian leader after a heavy binge of self-destruction (drinks, drugs etc.) and received ministry for this. I did a lot of crying and opened up my soul to the local fellowship. I really tried to be real for the first time in my life but felt very vulnerable and found myself being misled by all sorts of ideas and doctrines. As a result of spending time with the leaders wife, I fell in love with her and she with me. As it turns out he is a tyrant, a sham and a bully, but both his wife and myself have been tortured with guilt because we know it's wrong. This is not my idea of life in abundance. Please help if you can.

Name and address withheld

We get quite a few letters of this nature — and it is

of course difficult to counsel other than spell out God's heart and biblical principles. We would appreciate your prayers for this vital, though private, aspect of our ministry. — Ed.

FUNDAMENTALISM

Thank you for sending Pioneer Bulletin. The article 'Fundamentalism' was a real eye-opener and a great help to me personally, although I am sure that some will give more than a 'Tinker's Damn' about the contents!

A youngster spoken to at the Banquet at Ealing is now going to spend a year working with a Christian Youth Organisation and what was said to him was a tremendous encouragement. Keep pioneering with increasing boldness!

A.F.
LUTON

ERROL HONOURED

There were many memorable experiences at the Pioneer Leaders Conference recently — but I found Errol O'Brien's talk on 'Honouring One Another' exceptional. It was the manner in which he spoke, showing that he was doing exactly what he said, despite the personal cost of saying it publicly — that forced home the reality to me. I could see he clearly loved, and as a man wanted to honour others highly every step of the way. In the past I have found that sort of attitude sickly and lovey-dovey but I found Errol's expressions on this occasion almost brought me to tears. I see that God wants us to love and honour other men in a way that is clearly sacrificial to our egos!

I.F.
GREENFORD, Middx

On a personal note I want to add that I have learnt a lot about love, affection and caring for people from Errol — he really does preach what he practises! — Ed.

FROM COSTA RICA

I cancelled my subscription to Pioneer Bulletin some months ago before I left for Costa Rica. Having just received 'Gerald Quotes' and devouring it with unusual intensity, I felt the distinct urge to renew my subscription. Could you send me copies from May 84 onwards. I am working in prisons and shanty towns with an emerging team of nationals and ex-patriots. The book was a real 'shot in the arm'. Feliz año nuevo 1985!

J.P.
COSTA RICA, CENTRAL AMERICA

FULLTIME?

Thank you so much for Pioneer Bulletin. We particularly appreciated the comments on Fundamentalism. It is good to see this issue being

faced by the team. It seems to us that one of the great tragedies of fundamentalism, is that too many Christians from the 50's onwards, have seen 'fulltime' service in terms of either missionary service abroad or the ministry at home. (We came from that background ourselves.) Instead we should be seeking to work out a Christian witness in the world of business, commerce, industry, and education. The appalling consequence is that 30 years on, Satan has well established his kingdom in these areas.

We yearn that Christians in their numbers will, for example, get good degrees at University and storm these strongholds. We are also thrilled that you are involved with us in Scotland and pray for you all at the beginning of each week, using Pioneer Bulletin as a guide.

L. & D. W.
DUNDEE

Thanks for praying — keep it up! — Ed.

RELIGION IS DEAD!

May I say how inspiring I thought the preaching was at the Banquet and how absorbed I was in the message. I am a Sixth Form pupil — presently studying Sociology. As part of the course I've been allocated a topic to speak on and because my teaching staff know I'm a Christian they took great pleasure in allotting me the title 'Religion in Britain is Dead!' Well at once, my thoughts went back to the preaching on the Banquet and different things I'd read.

A.H.
LICHFIELD, Staffs

EXCELLENT FESTIVAL

Thank you very much for an excellent week at Festival. We thoroughly enjoyed our time there along with the folk we brought. I think 'Excellent' sums it up overall because it seems the organisers thought out every aspect. I think it's a good advert for the Kingdom of God! It was also good to see a lot of non-Christians there this year. We found the worship very, very good and we are looking forward to getting the tape. We found Ian and Noel's leading particularly good. In future I'd like to hear more about how our love and zeal for Jesus is going to bring about the Kingdom of God. Dave Tomlinson touched on this but with so much apathy and passivity around it brings me back to your teaching on Pioneers & Settlers. It would be so easy for us all to sit back and let others do things for us.

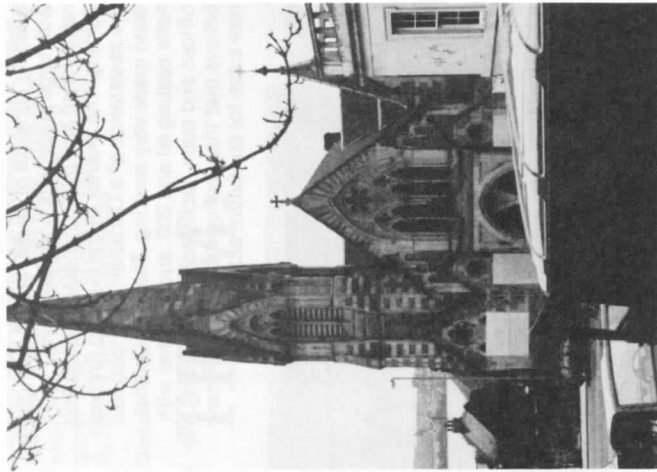
C. & A.P.
LONDON N4

THE GATE FELLOWSHIP

The Gate Fellowship began with a small group of people who worked together in the Dundee C.L.C. bookshop with the manager Stewart Brunton (who is now the leader) feeling that they wanted to have a deeper experience of God. They began to meet together to pray for revival to come to the city. Instead they found that they were to experience a personal revival. This small group of people met each Tuesday in Stewart's home and the numbers very rapidly grew until the prayer meeting extended right into the hallway and up the stairs! We began to have a new experience of God. People were being baptised in the Holy Spirit. Many were finding release from things that had troubled them for most of their lives. God began to speak to us in ways (such as prophecy and visions) that many of us had never experienced before.

Basement beginnings

It was out of this meeting that six people felt called of God to form a new church and in 1976 the Gate Fellowship began. Initially the meetings were held in a rather dingy shop basement and we used to joke about being part of the true underground church, as we could hear people marching along the pavement above! Out of these inauspicious beginnings we then began to become involved in evangelism in the city centre and a very small group of us (with a pathetic P.A. system) used to do open air work in the city. Through this we were invited to do some evangelistic work for a local mission hall whose numbers had deteriorated over a period of years until only a handful of people attended it. Through our involvement with this mission hall eventually the older members of the mission decided to disband it and they handed over the very central building to the Gate Fellowship for our use. These halls became the first headquarters of the fellowship and became a very important base for our evangelistic activities.



Outside view

Leadership

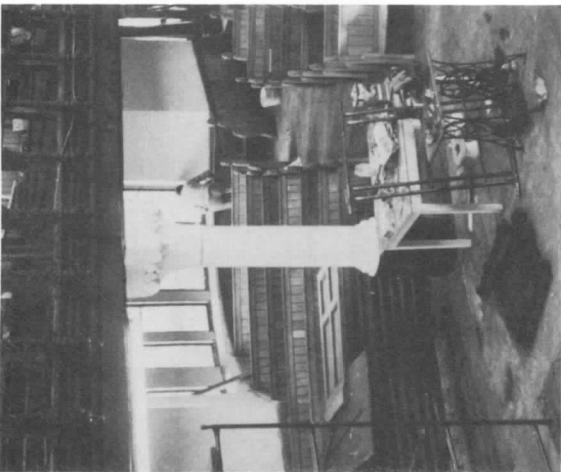
The leadership for the first time was becoming more broadly based, and whilst Stewart has always remained the leader of the fellowship, others were being recognised in leadership roles, ministries were becoming more defined and more people were beginning to move in spiritual gifts. The numbers in the early period rapidly grew and from the six that originally met we grew to sixty.

A number of years ago we were invited to participate in hosting a tour of this part of Scotland by Gerald Coates and Mike Pusey. Their ministry brought a completely different dimension to our life together and particularly through what Gerald said we felt that some of

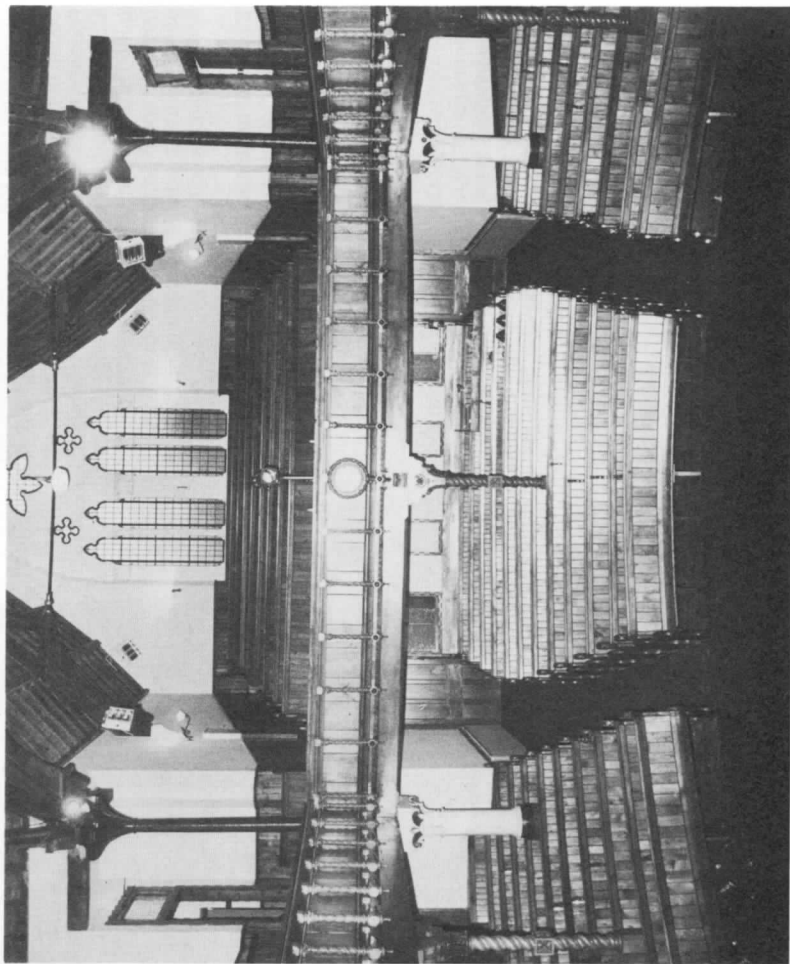
our ideas were being turned upside down! This was the beginning of a relationship with Gerald which has grown from admiration to friendship and to commitment. The fellowship since then has grown to its present strength of one hundred and forty.

New building

We were finding increasing difficulty in obtaining suitable halls in the city for meetings. Accordingly, last year, we purchased the former Students Art Centre (which was originally a Church of Scotland) near to the city centre and we are currently refurbishing this as a worship and headquarters centre. The building consists of an 800 seater auditorium with large stage which we have fully refurbished and put in full stage sound and lighting. The interior of the building (through the assistance of a Christian architect) has been made very exciting. There are 2 other halls seating 60 and 200, and together with offices and many facilities in the building. We believe that this new centre is an important new base for our future activities.



Still under construction



The finished job! (Photo by Evening Telegraph, Dundee)

Vision locally...

Our main vision in the locality is to see greater unity between the different churches and we are part of a small group called the City Leaders Fellowship where many of the evangelical churches are represented. This group was formed initially for friendship and from it has grown a sense of mutual trust. Joint projects are undertaken, such as last year when we were involved in the Billy Graham Mission by Video. The Gate Fellowship sees its role as serving these leaders in every way possible and we do at present provide quite a lot of administrative support for their projects.

...and further afield

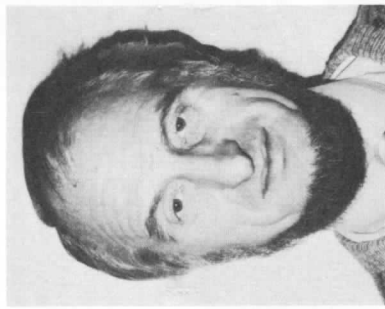
In a wider sense Stewart is involved in Fellowships throughout the East Coast of Scotland and many fellowships relate to him such as Kirriemuir, Blairgowrie, Perth,

Aberdeen, Macduff, Dufftown, Kingussie and so on. Some of these fellowships have only been started in the past 2 or 3 years while others have been going for considerably longer. Since Gerald's last visit to Dundee we have been beginning to define some of our goals and we look forward to next year when we can begin to see some of these goals (such as seeing our present building filled) achieved.

A small group has recently been started in St Andrews which we have called the Eden Christian Fellowship under the direction of Chris Southwick. This began as a group of students meeting together as a house group and has now grown to the extent that a hall is required for Sunday meetings. This is an exciting new development because it has grown from being students only to beginning to attract some local people.

Donald Steel

LEADERSHIP TEAM:



Stewart Brunton



Chris Goodman



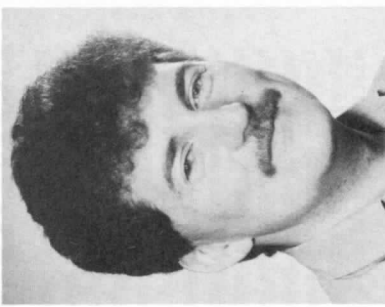
Hugh Henderson



Norman Forrest



Chris Southwick



Donald Steel

NEWS ROUNDUP...

BIBLE FACTS

Of the world's 5000 languages, less than 300 have the complete Bible, and less than 600 have the New Testament. Only around 1,800 have any part of the scriptures at all. The Bible Societies print and distribute about 12 million Bibles, 13 million New Testaments and countless million smaller sections of scripture each year. When Bibles went on sale in Warsaw 15,000 were sold in the first three days. In Africa — where 20,000 people are becoming Christians every day — most of them cannot afford to buy Bibles and the British and Foreign Bible Society have to subsidise scriptures for these people.

MOSQUE IN ROME

Rome — home of John Paul II is having its first mosque built — financed by 24 Moslem countries. The foundation stone has already been laid and the premises will include a library, a lecture hall and Islamic cultural centre. Moslem nations have already spent lavishly in order to make their presence known on prime building sites close to city centres.

PROJECT LONDON

PROJECT LONDON will continue throughout the summer months this year — with several churches in and around South-West London continuing in their programme of door to door work, street theatre and special events. Several young men and women in their late teens and early twenties have come forward to give themselves to Project London for anything between a week and a month. They will be attached to a local church, will be given educational training and on-the-job experience, furthering the work of the local church and giving them training for their own home fellowships. College and University students or business people with considerable holiday time should write to Pioneer Enterprises, stating what time they could give to Project London.

TEAM MAGAZINE

All the churches working with Gerald and the Team will be receiving a free 24-page magazine, explaining the work of the team with churches and fellowships, various training projects and plans for 85/86. It is expected that everybody at Festival 85 will also be given one. If you are not in one of those fellowships and you are not planning to attend Festival, but would like a copy of the magazine — please send a request with a Stamped Addressed Envelope (6½ x 9½").



R.T. SPEAKS

R.T. KENDALL from Westminster Chapel addressed almost 100 leaders who relate to the Team. Speaking on 'Evangelism and the local church' he stirred and stimulated many present and not a few were in tears at the close of his address.

LUIS ON THE AIR



LUIS PALAU's Puerto Rican Crusade was broadcast, via satellite to a potential audience of 350 million people. The goal of the project was to reach all the Spanish speaking people in Central and South America, the United States, Spain and regions of Africa and the Philippines. The evangelist was heard from Cuba to the Canary Islands — from Morocco to Mexico. 'We are not playing games with technology', said Palau, 'I am haunted by the urgency of the hour in Latin America. Revolution is in the air. Violence and bloodshed are on the streets. Sexual looseness and immorality are rampant. Such conditions demand evangelistic action on the greatest scale that we can conceive.' Immediately after the crusade 120 television stations broadcast Luis Palau's message during the first week of April. Time Magazine claim that in Guatemala, South America, 'Six times as many people listen to the radio as read newspapers', and of Peru the magazine continued, 'Radio reaches the ear of virtually every man, woman and child.'

ISLAM ON THE MARCH!

ISLAM has become the fastest growing religion in the world. About one quarter of humanity follow its teachings — as many as Christianity. In 1934 there were 682,400,000 Christians world-wide, and in 1984 this is now around 1,000,000,000 — a 47% increase. However, the Islamic faith in 1934 had only 200,020,000 adherents and in 1984 they also had 1,000,000,000 followers — a 500% increase! (These figures are from the U.N. Year Book and Readers Digest Almanac and Yearbook, and the Islamic Information Centre of Pakistan.)

NEXT...

A major international Magazine 'NEXT...' will be launched next year. John Noble, Dave Tomlinson, Pete Fenwick and Gerald Coates will oversee its policy and Dave Tomlinson will be its Editor. This will be a teaching magazine with a prophetic edge, also carrying news of major projects that these four musketeers work on together. It will be a high-quality, well produced publication and will be sold quarterly. More details later.

EUROPE — THE DARK CONTINENT

There are 4000 towns and villages without a group of believers in Austria — 36,000 towns and villages in France with no evangelistic witness and 40 million lack any understanding of the Gospel. In Spain only two in every thousand people are committed Christians and the whole of Luxembourg probably has less than 150 bible based Christians. Malta has about 20. There is a growing concern for Europe. Luis Palau is planning to have a major thrust into Europe in the coming years. Bryn Jones is beaming television programmes across parts of Europe and many existing agencies are gearing themselves up for an evangelistic thrust in both East and West Europe.

BANQUET TAPE

The Banquet Talk — 'Minimising God's Maximum' that was given most evenings is now available and costs £2.50p plus 30p p&p. It lasts for 41 minutes and is an unedited version. It can be purchased from Pioneer Enterprises or Ray Coleman Productions, 1 Osborne Road, East Cowes, Isle Of Wight, PO32 6RX.



UNITY — WHERE IS IT?

By Gerald Coates

The Church now is more divided than it was 50 years ago. Then, denominational divisions created at best a 'hey-ho we're all in this together' comradeship, or at worst suspicion coupled with policies of non co-operation.

Today, despite countless talks, cassettes, articles and books on the theme of unity, divisions proliferate annually. 'That we may be one' soon became 'That they may join us!' Co-operation gave way to polite competitiveness but at the same time, a somewhat docile Christianity gave way to a vibrant Christianity, if at times it smacked of superiority. There is, particularly from this quarter, a great evangelistic thrust. Resources of personnel and finance are being drawn upon to shake institutional Christianity out of irrelevancy into the front line of battle.

Purges and Mergers

Two major divisions have taken place over the last five decades — and there has been one major merger. The merger, an unqualified non-event between Congregationalists and Presbyterians — brought about the United Reform Church. 'Neither united nor reformed' someone quipped. It is, strangely enough, this particular denomination who has lost more members since the merger than any other.

However, the two major divisions represent two entirely different schools. In 1966, led by Westminster Chapel's Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones, the F.I.E.C. (Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches) was born. Tired of 'mixed' congregations (believers, agnostics and even atheists) they loudly banged the 'back to the Bible' drum, as it does today — but less defensively and arrogantly. They are conservative and mainly non-charismatic. This major divorce from traditional denominationalism has not been followed by any great measure of reconciliation.

The other division (or should I say divisions) are known as the Housechurch Movement. Apostles, prophets, teams, teaching weeks and church planting now abounds — with stories, not all untrue of sheepstealing, proselytising and elitism. Bible

A change for the better?

Mature Christians must never allow personal goals to outweigh Christ's burdens for his church. We can't take ground from Satan if we don't know what ground we are standing on now. The ground has been cleared by Christ of ungodly rubble enabling all those who have been truly born from heaven to stand together, serve one another and pray for each other's blessing.

'We can't take ground from Satan if we don't know what ground we are standing on now.'

How do we know our ground?

1. *Listen to the living prophets.*

Prophets interpret prophets. Jesus prophetic prayer recorded by John in Chapter 17 still awaits an answer by people who understand that unity is firstly a matter of attitude, not merely doctrine and methodology. We still build tombs and pay homage to dead prophets whilst paying little attention to living ones. There is a need in the West of national and international repentance concerning our attitudes of non co-operation with one another. The divided church should be a cause of sadness, not celebration. Empire building must necessarily be separated from Kingdom living. I prophesy a great voice will emerge in various lands pointing us in the direction of harmony, love, care and working relationships. This is especially true in an age when so much is falling apart.

2. *Give attention to the truth.*

'The Lord our God is one God' declared the nation of Israel. Plural unity characterises God and must mark his people. We are obliged and even commanded to love one another — whether we see eye to eye or not. We are, Jesus said, to behave toward others in exactly the same way that we would have them behave toward us. The most casual observation of the early church will tell us that it was full of different schools of thought,

'God allows us preferences but never prejudices.'

theology and practice. Diversity and cultural differences were not only allowed but positively encouraged as they should be today. 'God allows us preferences but never prejudices'. The stories I hear about others and sometimes myself — are not nearly as important as the attitude in which people

so gleefully pass the stories on. God stands ready to save us from deception, self-preservation and pseudo-spirituality if we will drop our defences and acknowledge our need of one another, giving attention to the truth that God has made us one.

3. Make room for God.

The only thing one can expect of God, is the unexpected. Closed sectarian fellowships where the only traffic is 'in' — where the favourite pastime is taking pot-shots at the opposition — are in for some surprises. 'Sign along the dotted line' commitment and verbal adherence to creeds are not God's basis for fellowship or relationships. We must allow God to be God and like Mary, lift our hearts and say 'Be it unto me Lord according to your Word.' We can easily co-operate with the Spirit day by day, in our localities and wherever we have opportunity, looking to find Christ in all our relationships with true believers.

4. Play your part.

Unity does not come about by simply letting God do it or, on the other hand, by doing it ourselves with or without God. Each of us has a part to play. No-one can unify all of God's people, but wherever possible, we can be one in heart and purpose with the individuals God has put us with. 'A man's gift will make room for him' may not only apply to his ability to teach or prophesy. The kindness of a meal, carefully chosen presents, gifts of cash, a bunch of flowers or bottle of wine may do more to open people's hearts and cause them to drop their defences than we could ever imagine. Kind words instead of suspicious judgements will go a long way when building bridges and removing ungodly barriers.

Resist the devil, go with God!

If a thing is worth doing — it's worth doing badly. Even though the task may overwhelm us at times in its magnitude. Let us give attention to the prophetic

'If a thing is worth doing — it's worth doing badly.'

messages in our nation, apply ourselves to the truth, invite God back into relationships where there is tension and hurt and then play our part — practically and prayerfully. I have no doubt that we will be delighted, surprised and overjoyed at what comes out of such attempts however poorly achieved. Resist the Devil and his divisive spirits and demonic influences — and move the way Christ moved. In honesty and openness, friendship and affection, truth and righteousness. God is responsible for this idea of unity — so let's act responsibly.



What is happening to the Church in Scotland?
Is the Kingdom of God being built or is it just bagpipes, kilts and haggis? Does Hadrian's Wall symbolise nationalistic and cultural barriers that hinder the flow of the Holy Spirit?

To find out the answers to these and other questions we asked Donald Steel, the Administrator for the Gate Fellowship in Dundee, to give us his views on the Scottish scene — past and present.

It would seem that from the outside the Church

in Scotland is moving slower than in England. However there is a great deal of evidence to show that the Kingdom of God is advancing North of the border. There is a strong work in the North East Coast of Scotland and many centres are growing rapidly — for example Coatbridge and Dunfermline.

Past revivals

Centuries ago Scotland experienced great revival and we believe this is evidenced by the many church buildings around, even in the remotest parts of Scotland. It was said of

Dundee, for example, at one time, that there was a church building on every corner. (However it was also said of Dundee at one time there was a pub on every corner!)

Men of influence

Many of the most influential men in the history of the Christian church in Scotland are household names. **John Knox** the founder of Calvinism and the Protestant church in Scotland is arguably one of the best known of Scottish religious figures. **George Wishart**, who as a young man before the time of the Reformation preached the gospel, was eventually burned at the stake at St Andrews by Cardinal Beaton. Cardinal Beaton himself unfortunately was murdered by the followers of George Wishart! **Mary Slessor** who was born in 1848 was an Aberdeen girl who came to work in Dundee and eventually went to pioneer the work of the gospel in Calabar and she is now a household name. The Missionary **David Livingstone** was also brought up in Scotland. As was **Annie Mitchell** of the Congo.

Horatio and Andrew Bonar, who were key figures in the development of the church as we know it today, were Scottish people. Horatio Bonar is one of the best known traditional hymn writers. **George Annan** was, as a young man, transformed from a life of absolute debauchery and became an evangelist. One morning he wrote on a pavement the word 'eternity' on his way down to the harbour, where he used to speak to the local people. That very morning he was drowned as he saved the life of a young girl who fell into the harbour. His death became a compelling illustration of the saving grace of God. God also mightily used **Robert Murray McChesney** in bringing revival to parts of Scotland.

Gospel Mission

Some notable events in Scotland are of interest. In 1870 **Moody and Sankey** visited Scotland, and they brought in an era of the Gospel Mission, which in many ways was a parallel to the present House Church movement. By 1900, there were 100 such Gospel Missions in Dundee. Out of these Missions came people like Mary Slessor.

A trend back to God

In the early 1920s there was a trend back to God. Winston Churchill was the M.P. for Dundee which was known as one of the most drunken cities in Scotland. However a young Christian called **Neddie Scrimgeour** campaigned on a ticket of prohibition and, to the amazement of everyone (especially Winston Churchill!) he won the seat in 1925.

A revival broke out throughout the North East Coast of Scotland mainly beginning amongst fishermen. The major figure in this revival was a young cooper called **Jack Troup** who had become an evangelist. The revival began amongst fishermen in small fishing villages and soon spread throughout the East Coast and many were converted. This revival has really left a legacy of religiosity on the East Coast, and through their connections with parents who were touched by the revival many people believe that they are Christians, and know God, but in reality they are just religious!

Duncan Campbell

In 1950 an important revival broke out on the Isle of Lewis through the well known **Duncan Campbell**. This was a time of visitation by God to this part of Scotland and it was said at the time that virtually no one was left untouched by this move of the Holy Spirit. Men and women who were working in fields entirely on their own were visited by God and fell to their knees in repentance. There are many authenticated reports of supernatural occurrences during this time.

Not sustained

The scene in Scotland in many ways is of a nation which is surviving on its religious past. The revivals of the past however have not been sustained and to some the scene in Scotland would represent a discouraging picture.

However there is much evidence that the picture is changing. Through the growth of new churches, through a re-awakening in some established churches, and through men and women who lead the church developing real relationships with one another. There is a lot still to be done in Scotland towards the establishment of the Kingdom of God. We believe that the 'House Churches' will play a key role in the future of Scotland.

Links with England

Examples of a growing unity with the Church in England is seen by the input men like David Tomlinson, Mike Pusey and Gerald are having into the Scottish scene. Stewart Brunton, leader of the Gate fellowship in Dundee, who is responsible for a number of other fellowships in Scotland, is now a member of Gerald's team. His commitment is such that he flies down (on an airplane!) to London for regular team meetings.

Donald Steel *as well as being a full-time*

Administrator for the Gate Fellowship in Dundee is also a trained nurse. He once lived just along the road from Sheila Walsh and is responsible for music, dance and drama in the Fellowship.

TEN WAYS TO FALL OUT WITH YOUR LOCAL MINISTERS



1. **MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO BUILD BRIDGES.**
(After all, God is finished with denominations and they aren't going the same way as you anyway.)
2. **NEVER INFORM THEM OF YOUR PLANS.**
(Just go ahead — they'll soon see that you've got more life than they have and it won't be long before you draw their folk into the 'new thing' that you are heading up.)
3. **ALWAYS PROMOTE 'WHAT GOD IS DOING'**
(Of course, you and your fellowship is 'what God is doing' so never share disappointments, problems or failures — only growth, miracles and answered prayers.)
4. **IT HELPS TO INFER THAT OTHER CHURCHES ARE INFERIOR — EVEN BETTER, UNBIBLICAL**
(It is not necessary to say it outright — just make them feel uncomfortable and hope they'll see how spiritual and righteously biblical you are.)
5. **NEVER SHARE IN LOCAL JOINT PROJECTS.**
(Unless they are evangelistic of course, you will benefit from them personally.)
6. **CONTINUALLY HIGHLIGHT THEIR MORAL AND DOCTRINAL DEFICIENCIES.**
(Always keep under wraps your own moral problems and questionable areas of methodology and doctrine you implement in your own fellowship.)
7. **WHEREVER POSSIBLE NEVER MENTION OTHER CHURCHES TO YOUR PEOPLE.**
(They may, under pressure, consider that there are alternatives to your own fine work — which of course there aren't.)
8. **WHEN MEETING OTHER CHRISTIANS, ASK THEM HOW THEY STICK IT OUT IN THE LOCAL BAPTIST CHURCH.**
(It will make them feel you've got all the answers and that their church is further behind than even they think it is.)
9. **NEVER SUPPORT CELEBRATION EVENTS PUT ON BY OTHER CHURCHES.**
(Always give the impression that your meetings and speakers are better, deeper and are producing more fruit and effectiveness.)
10. **PLAN ALL SHEEP-STEALING EVENTS UNDER THE BANNER OF OUTREACH, EVANGELISM AND CHURCH PLANTING.**
(It's the best way to attract Christians — and it all sounds so good. People rarely ask whether your church is growing through evangelism or transplants anyway — people are still impressed by numbers.)

Do all these things regularly — and you can guarantee at the very least a non-relationship if not a bad relationship with local ministers, and you can always justify their hostilities as 'the enemy' coming against your own work and responsibilities.

G.C.

EVANGELISM IN RUSSIA

by Gerald Coates

VALERI BARINOV is, despite the sound of the Christian name, a man. He also happens to be my own age and was born 11 days after my birth — on the 6th December, 1944. For the last 40 years he has lived in Russia and is married to Tanya. They have two daughters Zhanna (16 years) and Marina (13 years). But today — Valeri Barinov is also in prison!

Having received 'call-up' papers for the army, at his medical examination a psychiatrist warned him that if he preached in the army he would be sent to a psychiatric hospital and from that day on Barinov was registered as a psychiatric patient without his knowledge. A few months later he was held in a psychiatric hospital and when his wife asked for the reason, she was told: 'Your husband's views on religion differ so much from those of ordinary Soviet citizens, that he needs psychiatric treatment.' Within days of his release he went to Leningrad Baptist Church where two hundred young people had gathered in order to play his rock musical 'The Trumpet Call'. Permission was refused but many of the young people went to a local club to discuss Christian ethics and biblical teaching. Later on that night the club was raided and 80 or so people including Valeri's 14-year-old daughter were all arrested and held for questioning. After their release, Valeri along with a friend was arrested for trying to 'escape'. During his 3-day trial Valeri declared 'My only crime is to be a Christian'. He was given a 2½ year labour camp sentence — and that today is where Valeri is. In prison. A few days after the trial he suffered a heart attack.

Early years

Whilst in his 20's Valeri became a Christian and his musical expertise was put at God's disposal. At the age of 6 he started violin lessons at a school attached to the Rimsky Korsakov Conservatoire in Leningrad. When he finished school and two years compulsory military service he put his musical abilities to good use in order to earn a living, singing in restaurants and clubs.

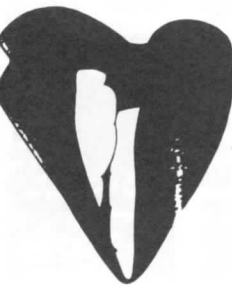
Despite obvious difficulties Valeri managed to record 'The Trumpet Call' secretly after hearing Lloyd-Webber's musical 'Jesus Christ Superstar'. He commented, 'The Lord seemed to approach me with this musical work. It was as if he were saying to me "You see, even the stones cry out. What about you believers? You meet in church, and you sing hymns and psalms and you preach but you despise the sinful world. Who will save the sinners? Non-believers can compose such an opera but what are you doing?" This struck me very forcibly and I fasted many times for God's work until he brought our group into existence.'

Valeri's vision in writing 'The Trumpet Call' was to share the message of salvation through Christ with young people throughout the Soviet Union. Eventually he translated the lyrics into English with the help of Western friends and in the meantime taught himself English so that he would be able to sing the English lyrics. Producing the musical was obviously demanding and dangerous and getting all the musicians together for practice was extremely difficult. Every rehearsal had to be held in secret to elude the KGB who were keeping a close watch on Valeri. Later on the recordings were smuggled out of Russia into the West.

Today

Dave Markee has re-recorded Valeri's musical with Western musicians. This new album (on Window Records) is available from Christian bookshops. If you would like regular news about Valeri Barinov — or you would like to send a gift to aid Tanya Barinov and would appreciate supporting the Prayer Action Campaign by purchasing 'The Trumpet Call' in English (cassette) write to: Prayer Action Campaign, 48 Overton Road, Abbey Wood, LONDON SE2 9SD or you can telephone them on 01-310 7834. A cassette costs £4.00 Inc. P. & P. (Cheques payable to 'Siberian Seven Committee'.) Included with the cassette is a Prayer Action file including documents of Valeri's extraordinary story, lyric sheet, extracts from TAS, official Soviet reports and letters from Soviet listeners. There is also an introduction by Lorna Bourdeaux of Keston College plus posters, petitions and postcards.

You can designate a gift to help fulfil Valeri's vision by sending 'The Trumpet Call' in Russian into the USSR. Sitting in my study dictating this article, it's difficult for me to realise that a brother of my age is now in prison because of his faith. Let's do what we can to fulfil his vision for him and turn his dream into a reality.



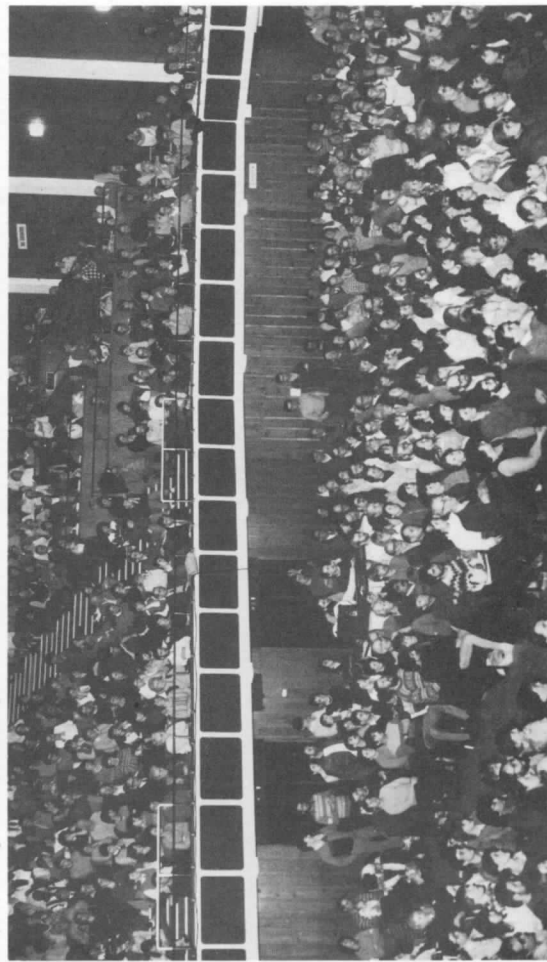
HEALING

Early in February a series of teaching/healing meetings were held with **Ian Andrews**. Three seminars were held at Millmead and attended by over 500 each evening. Then over 1,000 heard Ian speak on 'Emotional Healing' in the Civic Hall and 1,300 in the evening on 'Physical Healing'. Many were healed and delivered. In the final meeting scores of people came forward to publicly testify to their healing. A set of six tapes are available for £13.00 (including postage) from the Pioneer Publications, P.O. Box 80, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 2BQ.

'Can you see?' — the answer was yes!



People queueing to testify of healing



Ian had everyone's attention

PROPHETS AND PROPHECY IN THE LOCAL FELLOWSHIP

A weekend for those already exercising an emerging prophetic ministry in local fellowships.

Speaker: Gerald Coates

Gerald's teaching will cover:

- Knowing how to hear from God
- Communicating God's burden
- The loneliness of prophetic faith

FAIRMILE COURT, COBHAM, SURREY
SEPTEMBER 13th-15th 1985
(Friday supper to Sunday lunch)



BOOK REVIEW

'RELEASE! — the miracle of the Siberian Seven'
by **Timothy Chmykhalov** with **Danny Smith**
(Marshall's).

Timothy Chmykhalov, one of the 'Siberian Seven', spent four years, nine months and thirteen days in the basement of the American Embassy in Moscow. This book is his story.

He tells graphically of the difficulties Christians experience in the Soviet Union. The book gives insight into Russian culture and exposes the myth of 'religious freedom' in that country. Because of the persecution many of the Christians in Siberia wanted to emigrate to the West — but this was not easy!

In a desperate attempt to obtain the support of Christians in the West, Timothy and his mother and

six members of the Vashchenko family travelled to Moscow. They arrived at the gates of the American Embassy and their lives were never the same again . . .

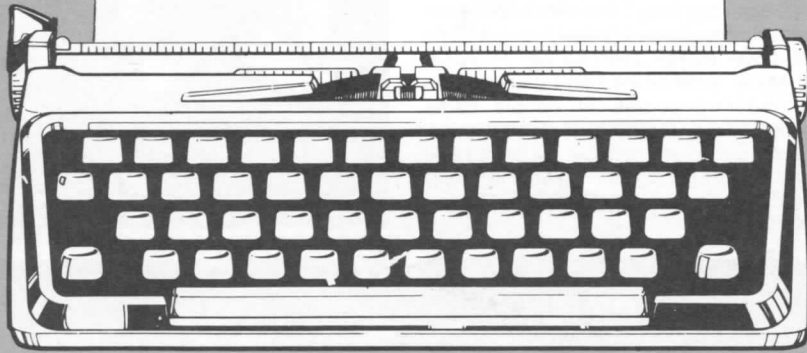
The book tells of how they became 'prisoners' in the Embassy — not wanted by the Americans but too afraid to leave! They became pawns in a chess game between the super-powers with the board at stalemate!

Read this challenging and compelling book and discover how they were eventually released.

Available from Pioneer Publications, £2.25p (Inc P&P).

Peter Sanderson

TEAM DIARY



JUNE

- 2nd Sunday** RICHMOND – Southbank Fellowship – 11 a.m. Celebration/Teaching event – in new premises. With **Gerald** and **Noel Richards**. Info: 01-878 6076
- 9th Sunday** HAYES – Fellowship Meeting – **Gerald** and **Noel**. Info: 01-573 1710
- 13th Thursday** WESTMINSTER CHAPEL – Lunchtime business meeting – 'Living responsibly in an irresponsible age' **Gerald & Noel**. Info: 01-834 1731.
- 22nd Saturday** GUILDFORD CIVIC HALL – 7 p.m. Celebration event. Australian healing evangelist Steve Ryder. Info and tickets: 0932-6522. Extra meeting at 3p.m.
- 23rd Sunday** CHICHESTER – 1st in series of teaching meetings with **Rodney Kingstone** (also 30th June and 7th July). Info: 0243-783905.
- 30th Sunday** ADDLESTONE – Youth Day – Addlestone Baptist Church – **Noel**. Info: 0932-62129.
- 30th Sunday** RUSTINGTON – Praise Party with **Ishmael**. Info: 0903-783382.

JULY

- 6th Saturday** DERBY – Workshops on evangelism during day – celebration event evening. **Gerald** and **Noel**. Info: 0332-44260.
- 22nd Monday** DUNFIRMLINE – Praise Party with **Ishmael**. Info: 0903-783382.
- 29th Monday** DALES BIBLE WEEK – Praise Party with **Ishmael**. Info: 0903-783382.

AUGUST

- 3rd/10th Saturday – Saturday** FESTIVAL 85 – Staffordshire Showground – booking forms and literature: Festival, P.O. Box 4, Sheffield S1 1DU.
- 26th/27th Monday – Tuesday** LINCOLN – Grapevine – Celebration meeting – A.M. David Parson. P.M. **Gerald & Noel**. Info: 0932-65905.