

"I thank my God...because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" (Phil 1:3-5)

Philippi

Paul and the Philippian church were partners in the gospel. The Philippians were helping Paul financially and each was praying for the other. And it was because of this partnership that the entire Imperial guard had heard the saving gospel of the Lord Jesus. The Philippians were partners in this ministry, even though it was Paul who was actually doing the talking. Paul needed the Philippians' support.

Great Britain

Today there remains a desperate need for the people of this country to hear this same gospel. Too few men and women are equipped to proclaim this gospel. Too few churches are committed to this outreach. Our task is simple - we urgently need to train the next generation of gospel workers and send them throughout this land to tell people the good news of Jesus.

For this to happen we need to create the type of gospel partnership that existed between the Philippian church and Paul. We need to create partnerships where Christians will pray for one another and put their financial resources at each other's disposal in order for the gospel to go out to our land. As people learn about the opportunities and needs of 'real' people and projects (rather than be confronted by faceless organisations) they are more likely to become partners in the gospel work of others by praying, by providing practical help, and by giving generously.

Launch of Gospel Partners Trust

Just a few weeks after launching the Gospel Partners Trust we are very excited. There are many opportunities for ministry. There are a great number of people who are keen to be trained to be better gospel workers, whether within a church setting or at theological college. There are also a number of new churches that are being planted each taking the gospel to communities that do not currently have access to the message about Jesus. You can read about some of these over the page.

Thank you

We are also very grateful to God for the response. We thank God that you have been motivated by the opportunity to become a partner with others in gospel work. Due to your generosity, we have already written our first cheques and been able to pledge support to a good number of people and projects. We have several more meetings planned where we will be setting out our vision, and it is particularly encouraging that a number of you are now actively recruiting your friends.

But there is still much to do

Word has begun to seep out and already there are more requests for assistance than there is money committed. We know that there are many people who are keen to be trained, but who need help. There are several exciting projects afoot where people have approached us for money, but which we have had to put on hold. And we know that we have barely scratched the surface.

So we are driven to our knees. We pray that the Lord of the harvest will send out labourers into the fields. And we pray that he will provide for their needs. And our prayer is that donor and recipient alike will be blessed through their partnership in the gospel as they seek the Father's glory. Please join us in this.

Simon Pilcher
Chairman

projects being supported:

> **Emma Desmond** - Emma had been leading Bible studies and training study leaders at St Helen's, Bishopsgate, for eight years before she went to work full-time at Holy Redeemer Church, Streatham Vale, last September. There she has helped to develop Bible studies and focused in particular on women's ministry, organising breakfasts and reading the bible one-to-one with several women. Because she wants to continue in full-time ministry, Emma will need formal training, and to this end she plans to start a BA in Theological and Pastoral Studies at Oak Hill College in October 2004.

> **Working with Muslims in Tower Hamlets** - When Abdul (not his real name) became a Christian eight years ago, his family in Pakistan cut him off completely. Like many Muslim Background Believers (MBBs), he came under intense pressure to compromise his faith. Despite that, he is maturing into a fine evangelist and discipler, and – as well as building friendships with Muslims – is now developing his own literature to reach Muslims. He will be studying full time at Cornhill Training Course in 2003-4, and he hopes to build a small group of MBBs reaching out to the Brick Lane area, with a view to eventually starting their own church. Abdul lost all his money when he turned to Christ,

and is entirely reliant on partnerships to fund this initiative.

> **Andy Martin** - Andy grew up in Kenya with his missionary parents and at the age of 15 decided that he wanted to become a missionary himself. After gaining a Masters in Civil Engineering at Imperial, he became an apprentice with The Bible Talks in Mayfair. Although he had been offered a place by Africa Inland Mission to go to Tanzania this September, he's decided instead to get a deeper understanding of theology by studying at Oak Hill college. His heart is still set on Africa and his studies will equip him to be a better teacher and trainer of teachers when he does go out.

> **Christ Church, Liverpool** - Demographic changes in Liverpool mean there is now a need for a new church aimed at the young professionals and students who live in the city centre, as well as the many people who commute to work there. On September 7, Andrew Evans and Ken Cowan led the first service at a new Bible-teaching, evangelical church plant in the heart of Liverpool. They aim to build a fully diverse, self-supporting local church that, in turn, plants its own churches.

projects needing support:

> **St Helen's Associate Scheme** – this scheme aim's to train men and women (over one or two years) to be better servants of Jesus Christ and to send them out into the wider church. 2003-4 sees 26 associates involved across a range of ministries at St Helen's, Bishopsgate in London. They receive training in Bible handling, theology and ministry from dedicated full-time trainers. Although encouraged to raise some of their own support the scheme budget for 2003-4 will be almost £200,000. Are you interested in sponsoring an associate for 2003-4 (anything from £4,000-£10,000 per associate)?

> **Claypath Church, Durham** - Claypath in Durham has a problem most churches would envy: 250 students eager to learn from the Bible. Unfortunately, the church's core congregation, around 30 people, could only afford to fund a part-time minister. He has moved on and his replacement, Tony Jones from St Ebbe's Oxford, will be working full-time. Supported by an

administrator and three apprentices, he hopes to build up the church's work among both students and non-students, with the aim of Claypath being self-supporting within five years. In the meantime, it will cost money - £50,000 this year, decreasing by 20 per cent each year.

> **Training Gospel ministers in France** - France ties with Japan in having the highest proportion of professing atheists – about a fifth – of any country in the world. Evangelical Christians account for 0.6 per cent of the population, and there is little opportunity for prospective ministers to enjoy the kind of training often taken for granted in the UK. If they are to teach the Bible and help others to do the same, they will need rigorous theological understanding. We would like to offer scholarships for young French Christians to attend the Cornhill training course. Two French students will be coming this year, but if more are to come, further funding will be needed.

For further information, please contact:

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