

# ELIM LIFE

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IMMANUEL

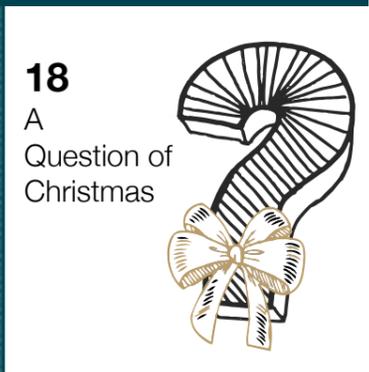
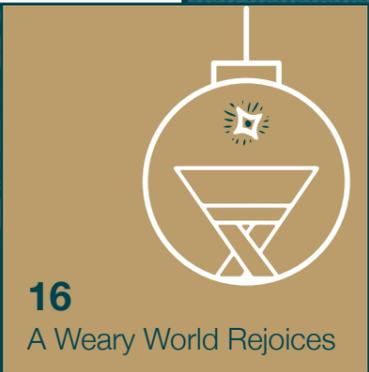
A WEARY WORLD REJOICES

STEPPING INTO  
GOD'S SALVATION SOTRY



- ☆ LIMITLESS
- ☆ ELIM CHURCH IN IRELAND
- ☆ TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Contents

 <p><b>8</b> Bright Beginnings</p>	 <p><b>10</b> Elim Churches in ROI</p>	 <p><b>13</b> 12 Days of Christmas</p>	 <p><b>18</b> A Question of Christmas</p>
 <p><b>14</b> God With Us</p>	 <p><b>16</b> A Weary World Rejoices</p>	 <p><b>24</b> Stepping into God's Salvation Story</p>	
 <p><b>19</b> Elim Life Kids</p>	 <p><b>23</b> Christmas: What does it really mean?</p>	 <p><b>26</b> Limitless</p>	
 <p><b>28</b> Andrew &amp; Laura Bleakley in Nepal</p>	 <p><b>34</b> 29 Global Conference</p>	 <p><b>34</b> What's In It For Me?</p>	 <p><b>35</b> Reviews</p>

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Editor's Note

# it's Christmas

Can you believe it? Every year it seems to get here faster than before, or maybe it's just a sign that I am getting older?! The lights are on, the trees are up, the gifts purchased and I am almost ready to embrace all that the festive season brings.

There is so much I love about this time of year, but equally so much that I loathe! I don't want to sound Grinch like but as I have spent time preparing this edition and just sorting my own life out and preparing for the season in church, I am aware, maybe more than ever, of the sheer contrast of the smiling facades and the broken hearts. The shouts of joy and the tears of pain. The truth is, it is no different to life in any season, but at Christmas time it is just more apparent as the ugly truth is exposed.

We live in a broken hurting world and yet we can rejoice and celebrate because our hope is firmly placed in a God who moved into the neighbourhoods that we reside and has never, nor will ever leave again. Our Immanuel, our God with us. Our God who came to stay and will never ever walk away. He is the reason we celebrate and sing, the reason for Christmas events, nativity plays, turkey dinners, and gifts, it's all about Him.

Can I encourage you to enjoy this season but also welcome the opportunities it brings? What is the point of us having and knowing this joy in the midst of sorrow if we are unwilling to share it? People are more willing to talk, even in the rush of the shopping malls people will stop! Talk, grab a coffee and share a moment, it matters more than the gift

you might want to give them. Invite people to church, Christmas is a time that people expect to be invited, don't waste it! This year they may say yes, not only to the invite but to a whole new life with a Saviour who loves and adores them. Give a gift, make a dinner, help a stranger, volunteer at an event, do something that matters this season. Be with people, just like Jesus is always with us.

Jesus came as a baby and then left His spirit that we would never be alone again, in this season when loneliness is apparent and real in so many lives, be a friend, don't allow the world and all its traditions to prevent you from following the model that Jesus left. Get involved in the mess and the brokenness, move in, pray, help, pray, give, pray, do, pray, act, pray talk, pray ... and watch as God Himself shows up and shows off.

This season is all about Him and never about us. When we get involved and then get "ourselves" out of the way, we simply allow God to move, we get to watch as His wonderful ways unfold and lives are transformed. Don't complicate it, ask, pray, and follow His lead.

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas, enjoy the season, celebrate our Saviour and rest in the knowledge that our God is with you. Always.

Much love, ■

Sara x

*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us")*

Matthew 1:22-23



# GATEWAY CONFERENCE USA



Sitting a number of months ago having a conversation with Nichola I discussed the possibility of attending Gateway conference in Dallas Texas (Howdy). I was at a point where I felt in ministry I had given out and now was the time for me to put something back in.

As a pastor I want to continually grow in my ministry so that I can make a difference in people's lives and our church can make a difference in the community. To do that I need to remain focused and refreshed. I still maintain the hardest area of ministry I struggle with is keeping fresh. Like having a fresh word from God every Sunday...twice! Leading a meeting on a Sunday in a fresh way, when I pray with people, when I visit people. I love what I do but I want to do it in a way that inspires, encourages and has a cutting edge. I don't want to be stale or unenthusiastic, nothing thrives in that environment.

I was prepared to go alone to Gateway Conference but I was glad Mark McClurg, also an Elim pastor, said he would come too.

So at this conference I would get to hear Pastors Robert Morris, Craig Groeschel, Greg Laurie, Jimmy Evans and Brian Houston. I couldn't wait and they were no disappointment but I don't want to give you a rundown of sermon notes here because I'm going use them in my congregation at Lisburn Elim!

What impressed me most or what will make the biggest impact on my ministry was the way these men think about their ministry.

Accountability is a big part of the way they operate. No one is left to their own ways and they are regularly checked on as to the progress they are making or areas in where they are struggling and encouraged to make a positive change if needed. I found this whole area fascinating and realised I can up my game in this area.

Appearance. Yes I said it, it matters. There is no room for sloppiness here. If you say you start at 11:30 you start at 11:30 not 11:32, they pay attention to detail. They stress first impressions

matter from the person you at the door to how the worship team appear on stage.

Approach is enthusiastic. Everything is done with enthusiasm, the worship team make eye contact with the congregation and engage them personally. Pastor Brian Houston was very open and vulnerable during a Q&A and he came across really well but he said something that stuck with me and then Pastor Robert Morris said they do the same at Gateway. He tells his worship teams across the globe in every church they have 18mins that's all. Here they are with the best worship teams and song writers and they are precise. I like that.

I went looking for the big things to inspire me and yet it was the small things that I can put into practice that for me will make the big the difference in ministry. In everything they do there is a DNA and it comes from the top down. Something I hope to put in practice in my ministry. ■

// Darren McWilliams

# INDUCTION OF PASTOR DAVID KINNIN

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of October it was such a blessing to welcome Pastor David and Michelle Kinnin along with their son Matthew into the Hope Central Family. From the outset of the evening it was evident that God's presence was there in a special way and as the proceedings began in the packed venue it was clear that it was going to be a moment to remember.

After a beautiful time of praise and worship the Encounter Freedom (EF) youth group sang a song intermittent with Bible

readings and solos. This was an emotional moment for the Hope Central family as this was the first time that the EF group, most of whom are new believers who are now passionately perusing God, had ministered in public.

After Pastor David was welcomed into the fellowship he responded with thanks to the ILT, past and present Pastors of his home church Portadown Elim, everyone at Dromore Elim, the Hope Central team and many others



THERE IS GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO INTENTIONALLY COMMUNICATE GOD'S HEART, BY WORD AND ACTION, TO THE PEOPLE OF OMAGH.

who had helped along the way. As he shared his heart in relation to what he wanted church life to look like it was obvious that the outlook was very positive indeed.

Pastor Ross McBride then delivered a very timely message from Acts 5 about Peter's shadow and brought a challenge to the Hope Central leadership to cast a unique shadow in the Omagh community. He said there was a great opportunity to intentionally communicate God's heart, by word and action, to the people of Omagh in fresh and vibrant ways that will enable the community to understand our motives and embrace our message of hope through Jesus Christ. David and the family were then prayed for by Pastor Edwin Michael, the ILT and many other Pastors, everyone enjoyed some food and fellowship in the Hope Central coffee bar where everyone had a great opportunity to meet David, Michelle and Matthew.

We at Hope Central are now very excited about what God has in store for us. In recent weeks there has been dynamic progress in many areas of ministry and we know that the ministry team will advance with one heart to passionately impact Omagh with the Gospel in the Power of the Holy Spirit!

Please remember to pray to pray for the Kinnins and all at Hope Central as we endeavour to advance the Kingdom of God in Omagh. ■

// Pastor John Oliver



# RATHFRILAND ELIM RENOVATION



Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October marked the official opening of the complete renovations to Rathfriland Elim. The church had been stripped back to the bare brick and insulated, rewired and fully modernised. Richmond Reproductions interior designed and custom built the pulpit, communion table and sound desk to finish the church to a very high standard. It was a miracle of divine providence that all the work was able to be completed debt free and so Pastor Eric McComb opened the church to the glory of God.

The opening marked the fourth year anniversary of Pastor Sam McClurg in Rathfriland Elim and it was a momentous occasion in the life of the church. Pastor McClurg said, "It is amazing to see the favour and blessing of God, not only in the

opening the renovated church debt free, but this on the back of our extension last year which also was completed debt-free. We started from nothing and God just made it happen on both occasions.

The fully modernised church plus halls enable us as a church to better serve the Lord and our community for the generations to come. We say as David did in Ps118:23: This is the LORD's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes." On the back of this we celebrated special Harvest services at the end of October were the church welcomed into fellowship new members. It is exciting to enter into this new chapter for what the Lord is doing in Rathfriland Elim. ■

// Sam McClurg

# WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

A BIG THANK YOU to all of you who continue to send in your news and articles for the magazine! If you would like to contribute to Elim Life Magazine, please take notice of our deadlines below for submitting articles / news / testimonies in the coming year!

Many blessings,  
Sara

Feb 2017 issue  
4<sup>th</sup> Jan

Apr 2017 issue  
10<sup>th</sup> Feb

June 2017 Issue  
24<sup>th</sup> April



"WE BELIEVE GODS PLANS FOR THIS HOUSE ARE AMAZING."

# ARMAGH INDUCTION

A new season in the life of Armagh Elim commenced on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2016 when Pastor Phil Topping was inducted as the new Pastor of the church. Pastor McCandless who had faithfully ministered during the past year opened the service in prayer and we enjoyed a time of worship in the presence of God.

The church secretary, Richard Thompson, on behalf of the leadership team welcomed Pastor Phil and his family to Armagh quoting from Philippians 4, "The Peace of God that passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." It was this peace that Armagh leadership team had when we invited Phil to come to take up the pastoral role at Armagh.

Pastor Phil responded by thanking the leadership team for the kind invitation to come to Armagh and stated, "It is 23 years since I left Northern Ireland to go to bible college and we are delighted as a family to come to Armagh. We have been made so welcome and as a family we are looking to our Heavenly Father to bless as we continue our journey with God. We believe Gods plans for this house are amazing."

Pastor Steven Neill from the ILT brought a very challenging message from Judges 6-7, The Lord is with you mighty man of valour. Praying that just as God was with Gideon so he would also be with Pastor Phil as he seeks to lead Armagh forward. The congregation were encouraged to celebrate Phil's strengths and to make

it their heart to encourage their pastor. Pastor Steven concluded by quoting Hebrews 13:17, encouraging the church to all to have confidence in Pastor Phil as the new leader in Armagh Elim. Pastor Edwin Michael Irish superintendent then prayed for Pastor Phil and family as he was inducted into Armagh Elim.

The elder of Armagh Elim reiterated a very warm welcome to Pastor Phil and the family saying that the secret of any successful ministry is when Christ is central in all things. I thanked all for their contributions and paid special thanks to the deacons for their loyal support over the past year also to all the leaders of the various organisations within the church for their splendid service and gave a special thanks to all who came including local ministers. Andrew McCullough superintendent of Border District Faith Mission closed in prayer and supper was enjoyed by all.

We once again give a very big welcome to Phil, Helen, Faith, Hannah and Caleb from all in Armagh Elim and look forward to all God has in store for us as a church. ■

// Norman Wylie



# BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

ONE OF THE UNIQUE THINGS ABOUT ELIM IS THAT THE MOVEMENT IS IRISH IN ORIGIN. ELIM TRACES ITS BIRTH AND BEGINNINGS AS FAR BACK AS 1915 TO THE TOWN OF MONAGHAN, IRELAND.

In just over one hundred years the Movement has grown, developed and expanded so that today there are numerous Elim Churches scattered throughout many different countries across the world.

We thank God for all that He has done in us and through us. Although it is

helpful and useful to think of the spread of the Gospel in global terms we all have to come back to our own 'vineyard' and make sure that it is not forgotten or neglected. God has called us to have a particular focus and expression of ministry in the place of our calling.

May the island of Ireland be remembered before the Lord and may He move again across this land in ways we have never seen before.

## CLEAR VISION

Across the Elim Movement we have a united vision for this island and that is "The whole Gospel for the whole person for the whole of Ireland" In order to help us achieve this in the best possible way we have a particular focus and emphasis on the spiritual need of the Republic of Ireland and the expression of our work there is called Elim Ministries Ireland or EMI.

Vision is vitally important in any great work for God. We are all aware, I'm sure, of that great phrase in Scripture from Proverbs 29:18 which reads "where there is no vision the people perish". Helen Keller when asked on one occasion what was worse than physical blindness replied "to have sight but no vision." As we look out on Irish society in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century I believe more than ever we need to be a people with anointed eyes who are touched with a vision from God and for God.

As leaders within EMI (Elim Ministries Ireland) we believe that God has given us a definite vision and burden for our land at this time.

## COMMON GOALS

We have set five goals that we are pressing towards under God in order to move us into the realisation of our vision. These are as follows:

### Evangelism and Church Planting

It is our desire to reach out, under the leading of the Holy Spirit, in evangelism and Church planting so that our nation might be influenced, impacted and transformed by the message of the Gospel.

Currently we have 11 churches in the Irish Republic with another one already planted and three more in process of being planted. This could give us 15 churches by next year and we have a five year plan to increase to 25 churches and a ten year plan to aim for 100 churches.

### Spiritual Preparation

Our desire is to lay a foundation of fervent prayer and regular fasting -

particularly amongst our leaders - for a move of God's Spirit upon our nation. At the moment we hold 3 days of prayer and fasting for all our EMI churches twice a year and we hope to develop this so that we can do it 4 times a year across our network.

### Ministry Training

We have a programme of Ministry Training available to the people within our churches and this is done with the aim of drawing out and developing anointed leadership and gifted ministry. We work with Pastor Hugh Moore in terms of the Elim Academy and this is being rolled out each year amongst our churches.

### Structural Streamlining

We are committed to tuning, developing and when necessary changing our structures in such a way that they will continue to effectively serve the purposes of God.

Recently it has been necessary for us to upgrade and update our registration as a group of Churches under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Ireland. This has been completed this year and we are now registered as Elim Ministries Ireland (EMI) and some of our structures have had to be adjusted and changed to flow in with this new arrangement.

### Kingdom Co-operation

According to the standards and principles of the Word of God we are committed to a positive attitude of fellowship, support, encouragement and co-operation with other churches, groups and organisations within the Body of Christ on this island.

## RELATIONAL VALUES

### Corporate Identity

Recognising not only our local identity but also the particular Church stream (Elim) that God has

WE NEED TO BE A PEOPLE WITH ANOINTED EYES WHO ARE TOUCHED WITH A VISION FROM GOD AND FOR GOD.

called us into we are committed to support and uphold the integrity of these truths in our conduct and communication.

### Common Vision

As a Fellowship of churches we are committed to preaching the whole Gospel, ministering to the whole man and reaching out to the whole of Ireland.

### Mutual Respect

We are committed to honouring, affirming and encouraging our leaders and those that work amongst us so that their ministry may not be unnecessarily hindered.

### Transparent Love

In our relationships to one another both as individuals and Churches we are committed to working together in an atmosphere and attitude of openness, truth and love.

### Keeping Harmony

We are committed to building each other up in our faith and ministry. If there is a matter of conflict or dispute we are committed to resolving it through a process of dialogue and communication.

### Forward in Faith

As we seek to go forward and advance the cause of Christ and the Kingdom of God in this land we are indebted to the prayers and the financial support of our brothers and sisters in Elim north of the border. We are one Elim Family living on an island that is two countries but we are united in one vision and one mission "to carry His message, to share His love, and to tell His story."

May the Lord help us to provoke one another more and more into greater love and greater works in the days ahead. ■

// John McEvoy  
Assistant Irish Superintendent of Elim in Ireland

# ELIM CHURCHES: REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

## BALLYFERMOT COMMUNITY CHURCH

**Pastor & Wife:**

Peter Finch & Martha Barrios de Finch

**Vision:** Ballyfermot Community Church envisions being a visible, transformational community of faith, who reflect the grace and love of God by providing hope for all people in Ballyfermot, Dublin City, Ireland and beyond.

**Prayer Point:** For the work of the Manna Charity Shop and the other outreach ministries in our local community such as the Life Groups, Christian Life and Principles for Living teachings, Visitation Ministries and Widows Care. Also, for those ministries in the vision of the church for the community, in the near future.

## KELLS CHRISTIAN CENTRE

**Pastor & Wife:**

Pastor Eddie & Sheila Kinghorne

**Vision:** We want people to know that the Bible is not some old antique book that is not of any importance. But that it is relevant and more up to date than tomorrow's newspaper and has much to say about the times we live in. Yes, it tells men and women everywhere that they all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. But it also tells them the Gospel, which means the Good News that God has taken care of the sin problem forever, and if we will accept His offer of forgiveness we can know the joy of that forgiveness and of being born again into His family, of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

**Prayer Point:** To see the community of Kells which was once a thriving Christian community under St. Patrick, won for Christ again.

## MONAGHAN ELIM CHURCH

**Pastor & Wife:**

Stephen & Jacqueline Matthews

**Assistant Pastor:**

Neil & Julianne McMullan

**Vision:** Our mission is to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the people across the community of Monaghan and that they would know God's great love for them and how they can have a personal relationship with Him. Our lives have been changed and we want others to experience the same.

**Prayer Point:**

That we will see revival and a move of the Holy Spirit in our land, many people coming into relationship with Jesus our living Saviour, that we will grow closer to Him and be bound together in Him.

If you are part of the ROI Elim family and would like to feature a story, highlight an event or just share some exciting news, please get in touch with Hannah Arnold at [admin@elim.ie](mailto:admin@elim.ie) We look forward to hearing from you!



## SLIGO CITY CHURCH

**Pastor & Wife:**

Daniel & Josie Caldwell

**Vision:** A community with God's heart for family, growth and mission.

**Prayer Point:** We are currently looking for a building in the city and we would appreciate your prayers that we would find the right place at the right price.

## AMAZING GRACE FELLOWSHIP, WESTPORT

**Pastor & Wife:**

John & Joanne Fitzsimmons

**Vision:** Planting the good news of Jesus in hearts and communities.

**Prayer Point:** Please join us in praying for wisdom, favour and more doors for effective ministry to open for us in Westport and the surrounding parishes, so we can excel in planting the good news of Jesus in hearts & communities.

## MEATH CHRISTIAN CENTRE, NAVAN

**Pastor & Wife:**

Richard & Bernie Mawhinney

**Vision:** We have an inherited scripture promise, "the glory of the latter house shall be greater than the former, and in this place I will grant peace, says the Lord of hosts." (Haggai 2:9) The church is 'a bridge' to enable people to move from an earthly glory to an eternal glory filled with God's peace.

**Prayer Point:** Our 'Reach-Out' projects - charity shops, food and financial banks for the needy, and evangelistic programme.

## OASIS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, ROSCREA

**Senior Leader:**

John McEvoy

**Core Leadership Team:**

John Bulfin, Trevor Cleary, Alma Mather, Anthony & Pam Troy, and Hugh Bracken

**Vision:** To be bring a Christ-centred, Charismatic and Community Gospel witness into Roscrea and surrounding areas.

**Prayer Point:** Pray for the witness of the Church into the town of Roscrea and for the possibility of outreach meetings in the surrounding towns.

## CASTLEBAR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

**Pastor:**

Cathal & Sharon Duffy, and three teenage children Hannah, Jordan and Benjamin.

**Vision:** "Loving God, loving others".

**Prayer Point:** Please continue to pray for us as we seek to reach out to our wider community; that we will be sensitive and obedient to the Holy Spirit. Pray for the possibility of a regular programme on our local community radio.

## TALLAGHT FAMILY CHURCH

**Pastor & Wife:**

John & Vicky McEvoy

**Vision:** To establish an authentic Christian witness as a Church to the people of West Tallaght - especially to the poor and broken.

**Prayer Point:** Please pray for Tallaght United Churches Alpha Course this Autumn. Also, TFC Building Project - that the Lord will give wisdom as we proceed and provision of funds to commence and complete this new building in Tallaght.

## WEST CORK COMMUNITY CHURCH

**Pastor & Wife:** Ken & Val Baker

**Vision:** A Pentecostal fellowship seeking to walk in the love of God and give it away.

**Prayer Point:** Please join us in prayer as we seek to start a student church in Cork city next year.

## SWORDS ELIM CHURCH

**Pastor & Wife:**

Kyle & Melissa Gray

**Vision:** To be a church that represents the true face, hands and heart of Jesus.

**Prayer Point:** That we would have courage, endurance and wisdom in reaching the lost in our area.

## LIVING WATER CHURCH, FINGLASS

**Pastor & Wife:**

Sean & Thelma Curran

**Vision:**

To bless our community with a knowledge of the Love of Christ.

**Prayer Point:** Greater impartation to minister in the power of the Holy Spirit.

A FOCUS ON  
  
**SLIGO CITY CHURCH**



// by Daniel Caldwell

**DAUGHTERS OF THE KING**

Seventy-six ladies attended Sligo City Church first women's conference, 'Daughters of the King'. Ranging in age from seventeen to seventy, they gathered together in the Clarion Hotel on Saturday 10th September. Ladies from different churches were represented, and some ladies with no church background attended. Beautiful worship, gifts, food and ministry combined to make this a day where woman felt loved, valued and encouraged. It was a great surprise when many who attended thought this was a regular event we put on! We are looking forward to our next ladies event in January 2017.

**HEALING ON THE STREETS**

Since May 2015 we have been on the streets of Sligo offering prayer. Every Saturday a committed team set up and make themselves available to pray in the Johnson Court car park. No matter what the weather, the team are there every Saturday between 11am and 1pm. Over the last 17 months the team have prayed with over 380 people and have led 8 people to the Lord. This is the church outside the walls.

**ONE YEAR OF INVISIBLE TRAFFICK IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND**

It was hard to believe as we entered the hotel that evening we were celebrating 'One Year of Invisible Traffick in the Republic of Ireland'. The night was a great success, people had come from a variety of area's within our city and community groups, to hear what exactly human trafficking is, it's effect on our region but also the work being done by IT to put an end to such a horrific reality.

We were so thankful to be joined by the Invisible Traffick NI team, who had come down to help celebrate the occasion and impart their words of wisdom for the coming year. It was a pleasure to have with us the Garda Siochána Super Intendant from Dublin to share a little on the statistics of this modern day slavery here in the Republic of Ireland and the methods being used to equip our Guards and fight this issue. It was

also a huge privilege to have with us someone who could personally share about the effects human trafficking had in her life. It was an incredibly powerful story and one which informed those attending of the dark reality of the situation here in Ireland and the conditions that many victims of trafficking find themselves in.

As we ended that evening with many photos, cake and much chatter, as a team we were so encouraged by those who were offering to get involved, or by those simply awakened to the reality of what happens behind closed doors. It was a fitting end to our first year, but also a great launch into year two. A year where we are more known, a year where so many more in our city are aware and backing the work of IT, and a year where we have no doubt we will share in many more victories in making the invisible visible.

**12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**

**MAKE THIS CHRISTMAS COUNT**

It's the most wonderful time of the year .... Or is it?! Christmas can be manic, it can be lonely, it can pass by in a blur, this year why not try to make it one to remember for all the right reasons. We have given you twelve simple ideas below on how you can impact a life in your world this season .. Why not give one or all of them ago? The simplest of things really can make a big difference in the life of another. ■



**01**  
 BLESS A STRANGER:  
 BUY THEM A COFFEE OR PAY  
 FOR THEIR BASKET OR  
 TROLLEY OF GROCERIES!



**02**  
 OFFER TO BABYSIT  
 SO MUM OR DAD OR BOTH  
 CAN GET SOME  
 SHOPPING SORTED



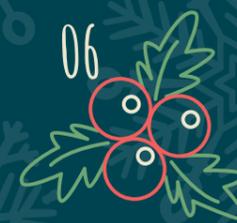
**03**  
 PRAY FOR SOMEONE IN NEED:  
 DON'T JUST OFFER, STOP THERE IN THE  
 MOMENT AND PRAY BELIEVING GOD CAN AND  
 WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE SITUATION



**04**  
 DONATE  
 TO YOUR LOCAL  
 FOOD BANK



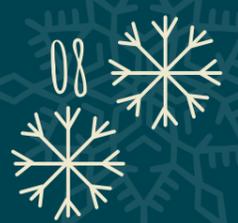
**05**  
 GIVE A BLANKET  
 AND / OR FOOD TO A  
 HOMELESS PERSON



**06**  
 VISIT A LOCAL NURSING HOME  
 AND SING SOME CAROLS -  
 SPREAD SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER!



**07**  
 GIVE UP YOUR SPACE  
 IN QUEUE, LET SOMEONE  
 ELSE GO BEFORE YOU!



**08**  
 BE POSITIVE ALL DAY -  
 SPREAD LOVE NOT MISERY!



**09**  
 BUY OR MAKE CHRISTMAS  
 TREATS FOR THE  
 OFFICE / CLASS / PEOPLE  
 YOU SPEND YOUR DAY WITH



**10**  
 POSTMEN AND DELIVERY DRIVERS ARE SNOWED  
 UNDER THIS SEASON, SAY THANK YOU AND  
 OFFER A TAKEAWAY COFFEE WHEN THEY CALL  
 WITH YOUR DELIVERIES OR PACKAGES



**11**  
 RETAIL STAFF ARE UNDER LOTS OF  
 PRESSURE, SMILE, SAY THANK YOU  
 AND APPRECIATE THEM (MAYBE EVEN  
 GIVE A LITTLE GIFT IF YOU CAN)



**12**  
 OFFER TO HELP AT HOME -  
 ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO  
 TO HELP RELIEVE SOME HOLIDAY  
 STRESS & MAKE SURE YOU DO IT!



**God with us. Forever, always, in our waking and our sleeping, in our ups and downs, in our misery and pain and in our celebration and rejoicing. God with us.**

Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign: Behold, the young woman who is unmarried and a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel [God with us]. Is 7:14 (AMP)

The sign that God gave us was His very best, He gave Himself, He became flesh and dwelt among us and when He in human form left this earth He left His Holy Spirit, again Himself, here with us that we may never be alone again.

It is more than difficult for us to grasp that reality with our human brain, the God head, the trinity, the One who was, and is, and is to come; is with us and will never leave us nor forsake us. A message that so often we only think about during the Christmas season as we hear the carols talking of our Immanuel God, but a message that the world needs to hear in every season of the year and life.

God himself became flesh and dwelt among us. He could've easily found another way. This same God who created the heavens and earth in just six days had options that you and I could never even dream up, options that would've been amazingly good, but yet His only option was Himself. He was the best option and nothing and no one else would do.

I'm not sure if you have started, finished or are in the middle of your Christmas shopping as you're reading this article, but I am sure like me you like to find the best option as a gift that you are going to give. I am someone who enjoys receiving gifts (who doesn't!) but I really love to give gifts. Gifts that are not always valuable but gifts with thought, with prayer, gifts that I ponder over and that are created with the receiver in mind, regardless of who I am giving that gift to. Whether it be my husband, or a friend, I love to think, to be creative in the gift that I give. I want that gift to be a representation of the love, the thought, the appreciation I have for that person, whether it be flowers to say thank you, or a letter to encourage, or a scarf to keep a friend warm on a cold day, it's about my love and appreciation for who they are or for what they have done for me.

I give gifts to say thank you, to say I love you, to say I appreciate you. God gave us a gift, a precious gift, to say I love you, even though I have nothing to thank you for, I appreciate you, even though you have had more failures than victories, and I love you with a love that is immeasurable and that will never run out or quit on you. Mind blowing! He gave us a gift that is eternal and that will stand the test of any trial or pressure. He gave us the gift of Himself, God with us, forever.

I wonder how different our days would be if we grasped that? Would we be braver in our conversations? Would we attempt more, do more, be more if we fully understood that in everything we do God is with us? We can often walk around in a fog or dazed mindset, going from one day to the next, one season of life blending into each other, but why? Why have we allowed this world to change our focus? Change our reality?

God became flesh and moved into the neighbourhood. He moved into the every day story of our lives. I've typed that three times now because it is so important that we understand that God became human, was just like you and me, experienced every

emotion and He has never ever gone away. We can't physically see Him, we can't sit across the table in a coffee shop and look in His eyes, but we can experience Him, we can know His presence, we can hear His voice, we can sense His Spirit. He is always near. Whether it be in a coffee shop, the car, the house doing the cleaning, in the middle of an amazing time of worship or in the quietness and stillness of an early morning walk He is always present. Although we can't physically see Him, we can hear, when we listen, we can sense Him, know His prompting, when we ask, we can "see" Him in the answer, in the environment, in the conversation with a friend. We see Him clearly when we fix our eyes on Him and Him alone, He becomes the lens and the filter in which we see everything and everyone else.

Our world will celebrate a season, people will enjoy the festive fun, they will follow family traditions and spend time with loved ones. Gifts will be given and carols will be sung. Some will over indulge in the festive treats and others will use the time off to rest and recover from a manic lifestyle. But some will struggle through the season, missing family and friends, aching and searching for love. Our world can be very lonely, with people longing for something or someone to fill the void and emptiness they so often feel. Even those who have much to celebrate can be longing and searching for something more.

**GOD BECAME FLESH AND MOVED INTO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD. HE MOVED INTO THE EVERY DAY STORY OF OUR LIVES... HE IS ALWAYS NEAR.**

We, the church, are the answer. The world is broken right now and is looking for a sign, searching for answers, searching for something. People are bewildered, lost, hurting and confused, but yet they are not willing to be swayed by the media they are looking for authenticity, genuine love and compassion. Something that is tangible and real, a sense of purpose and belonging. God gave us a sign, He sent His Son and with Him the promise that He would be with us always. We are to be that sign for others. Go into all the world ... Be a light in the darkness ... Be a city on a Hill ... Let all that you do be done in love ... these aren't just words but instructions to follow, He is our leader, He is our guide in this season and in every season we are to take this message filled with hope and love to the lost, to the world.

Our Saviour, our King is not just a baby in a manger, He became flesh and dwelt among us. He is still here, He has never gone away and is never going away. He is our hope, our confidence, our assurance, our rest. Nothing that has happened since the beginning of time itself, nor anything that will happen until the end will be a shock to Him. He sees it all and is in the smallest of details, and in the vastness of the plans and purposes as they unfold. All things were created by Him and for Him and we, His children, have nothing to fear.

In this season pray like never before, pray for the governments and leaders of our world, pray for opportunity and capacity to be the person God has called you to be. And when the opportunity comes shout and share the good news with all who will listen. Give people a gift that they will be eternally grateful for, let your world know of the love of a Father who came as a baby and has never gone away. The Christmas message never gets old, it's a story that should always be told, your story unfolded in His is powerful, beautiful and should be shared. Don't shy away this season, speak up, speak out and tell others about the God who is with us always. Our Immanuel. ■

// Sara Allen

# Wear a WORLD rejoices

I AM, GENERALLY SPEAKING, AN OPTIMIST. I TEND TO LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE OF THINGS, SEE THE GLASS AS HALF FULL. AND YET, IF I AM COMPLETELY HONEST, THIS PRACTICE HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT PARTICULARLY AROUND THIS TIME OF YEAR.

The world is broken and every day our news channels are filled with horrors but when we contrast that with the meaningfulness of the “Festive Season” that the west has come to celebrate, it just seems wrong. Advertisements cater to our consumeristic comfort idols by showing us beautiful people with smiling faces, enjoying the good life and telling us we need more and more stuff if we want to be happy too. Radio stations fill our ears with a sonically shimmering, polished veneer of jolliness and cheer.

I have historically been the guy who would put up my tree and listen exclusively to Christmas music until I was forced to stop. It was as if, for one holly jolly month, I could just take a break from all the brokenness around me and pretend all was right with the world.

I don’t want to sound like the Grinch, but it has all begun to feel a bit hollow. It often seems we are looking for happiness and hope where it was never meant to be found—in facades and fake

smiles. This has robbed an entire season of the meaning and beauty it inherently has; not one of an over-realised eschatology where everything is already perfect, but a realistic hope that though things are broken now, Jesus is making the world right again—and He’s on His way back to finish the job.

This is the hope of the season. We shouldn’t ignore the fact that we are in the middle of the mess, but we can celebrate the fact that we have a God who is above all the mess, sovereign and wise. Immanuel, God with us. He is in control. And He is coming to make all things right.

When the rest of the world is acting like nothing is wrong even while it spirals in despair, Christians can sing songs like “O Holy Night” and “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” which remind us of the “thrill of hope” we have in Christ. Though the world lay “in sin and error pining,” our weary souls have a promise that some day soon He will break our chains and set the captive free. He will disperse the gloomy clouds of night and put death’s dark shadow to flight.

We have the hope of Revelation 21:3-6, where the voice of the Lord spoke to the Apostle John of the glory that awaits us.

“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people and God Himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away... Behold, I am making all things new... Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true... It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.”

God gives us an amazing promise and then ends with, “This is as good as done. I am who I say I am and I do what I say I will do. And not one thing can stand in My way or stop Me.”

These words are the glue that holds believers together when everything around them is unraveling. In miscarriages and cancer, job changes and terrorist attacks, God is still a God who keeps His promises. When He says He will do something, He will do it.

In the garden, when Adam and Eve first sinned and all the world broke, God promised to send a Son who would redeem all that was lost and save the world from their sins. When Jesus came, God proved that He keeps His word.

The first Christmas wasn’t about warm fuzzies and fake smiles. It was an act of war on death and darkness—planned from before the foundation of the world by a God who doesn’t lose. Look at the extremes to which Jesus has gone to win us back from the death we had earned; to give mercy in place of the wrath we deserved.

Though very nature God, He didn’t hoard that. Instead, with kindness and compassion, He emptied Himself, and the King of Kings made Himself a servant. He got up from His throne where He ruled and reigned with all the riches and perfection of Heaven, wrapped Himself in flesh and moved into our poverty and brokenness.

The One who hung the stars and created all things was born to a virgin in a barn so that He might be hung on

a cross by the very ones He created. He lay down His life that we might live. This is our God—the One who fulfills all that He says. If He has done all this before, proving Himself faithful, then we can surely count on Him to keep His word now!

God has promised that just as He has come before, He will return to make all things right and all things new. To fix all that is broken. To destroy sin, sickness, and sorrow once and for all, and to shine the perfect light of His glory on us forever.

He won’t return as a baby in a manger, but as a conquering King who puts death and darkness under His feet for good and lets us share in His victory for eternity. We are waiting, sometimes painfully, but our Help is on His way. And so we join in the song of Advent. The song that John so concisely taught us in his last words of Revelation, “Come, Lord Jesus.”

Our God who keeps his promises will surely keep this one too. ■

# THE QUESTION OF CHRISTMAS



Evidence of the rapidly approaching Christmas season can be seen everywhere. Radio stations are blaring Christmas music, shopping centres and town centres are packed with people doing their shopping and neighbourhoods are lit up with Christmas lights. For most people, the Christmas season means the onslaught of extreme busyness. This isn't something new.

When Jesus was born, everyone in Israel was busy travelling to their hometowns for the census. Things were so chaotic that, in Bethlehem, only a few shepherds noticed the arrival of the Son of God, and that was only after they were summoned by a host of angels.

Right there in Bethlehem one of the most amazing events in history was occurring, and it received very little attention. What an accurate reflection of what is happening today.

Over 2000 years after Jesus' birth, the Church has spread worldwide. We have all of the benefits of modern communication at our fingertips, yet Jesus' birth comes and goes every year and for the most part is ignored by our world. Our Christmas songs may mention Christ, but to the average person, Jesus has little or no meaning to their Christmas celebrations.

My younger cousin found this to be true a few years ago. He was sitting in class, and his teacher was asking the students to call out words that were associated with Christmas. Being the bold Christian that he is, my cousin said "Jesus" and in reply one of his classmates said "Jesus? What does Jesus have to do with Christmas?"

That question the boy asked is the same question the world is asking, and the Christmas season is a perfect opportunity for us as believers to provide an answer.

To many, the Church and Christianity in general has become irrelevant. A Santa Claus figure who gives children gifts is more appealing than a God who died to offer eternal life to anyone who believes. This is an unfortunate reality, but you and I have the opportunity to change this for those around us, especially during this holiday season.

How can we do this? Well, we can show the world what Jesus has to do with Christmas through our love. When we take a time out from our holiday busyness to stop and reach out to others, the world will see exactly what Jesus has to do with Christmas.

Random acts of kindness can make a big difference in any day. Giving up a parking space, going door to door singing Christmas carols, visiting those without family, providing gifts to the poor, collecting for the food bank—there are many things that we can do to point the world to the true meaning of Christmas.

Now more than ever the world is asking what exactly Jesus has to do with Christmas, and we as Christians need to show them the answer. This Christmas, let's follow the example of Jesus and be giving of our time, money and resources. After all, the true message of Christmas is that God so loved the world that He gave, and the only way the world will know that message is if you and I do the same. ■

**YOUR MAGAZINE  
YOUR VOICE  
YOUR WAY**

**PULL ME  
OUT KIDS!  
I'M ALL YOURS!**

# ELIMLIFE KIDS



**CHRISTMAS  
CRAFT**

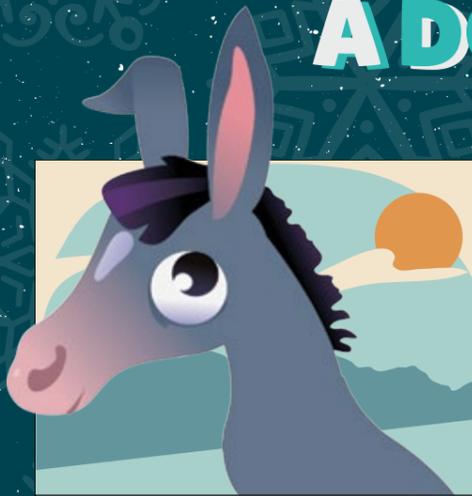
**LOL CORNER**

**MOVIE TIME**

**Inside this Issue...**

**A DONKEY STORY!**

# A DONKEY STORY



This donkey was chosen to carry a very special load. And to carry a girl called Mary down a dirty dusty road. He made lots of noises and grunts, he eeyoed and coughed. He didn't want to be chosen, but Mary and Joseph where never put off!



There was once a little Donkey, whose name we never know. He was part of a famous story that every year gets told. He wasn't always helpful, he was as stubborn as a mule! But one day, many years ago, he was no longer known as the fool.



They knew he would be able to get them to a town called Bethlehem. And soon after the journey started he began to believe in them. Before this special day he had only ever heard, How silly and useless he was compared to others in his masters herd.

This donkey wasn't stupid, he was just made to feel this way. Until one day he was chosen to have a special role to play. Mary told him he was special, she thanked him along the way Making sure he knew his worth and that he had a very important role to play.



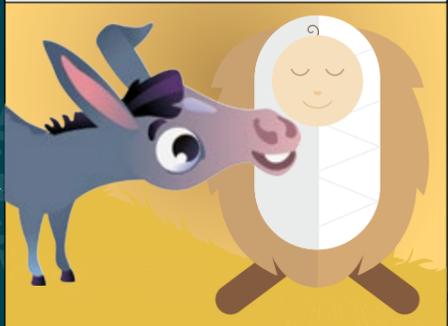
As they neared Bethlehem the donkey was getting very tired. He worried he wouldn't make it much further when he heard a noise and Mary cried.



And although the donkey was exhausted, he found the energy to journey on.



Soon after he was startled by an unfamiliar sound . A baby crying close by, from a manger on the ground. He watched as Mary lifted her baby and held him very near. And listened carefully as Joseph whispered into his ear.



You see the donkey was important even though he never felt that way His name doesn't matter, only that he was chosen that special day.



He got her to the closest town and to an inn keeper where she would be safe. And he lay down in the stable and fell flat on his face.



When you are chosen, remember, you too have a role to play  
 Don't listen to the name calling, just remember what the Bible says.  
 You are important, you are treasured, you are loved beyond measure  
 God sent his Son at Christmas time to be with you today, tomorrow and forever.  
 Jesus is the friend, who will never leave your side  
 Remember to include Him, in this festive Christmas time.

## SNOW MAN JAR



**HOW CUTE ARE THESE?! YOU CAN MAKE YOUR OWN JAR SNOWMEN.**

**This is the perfect winter or Christmas craft to make. Easy to make - give as a gift or use to decorate at home!**

### YOU WILL NEED:

- ➔ Jar ( any size )      ➔ White paint
- ➔ Buttons / stickers   ➔ Eyes
- ➔ Markers                ➔ Fabric for scarf
- ➔ Christmas sock (or old red or green sock)
- ➔ Battery tea lights or string Christmas lights

### WHAT TO DO!

First, paint your jar with white paint and wait for it to dry.

Stretch a Christmas sock over the top of the jar for the snowman's hat.

Add buttons, a face, and a scarf!

After the paint and glue on the snowman dries, yo can add a small string of Christmas lights or LED tea lights inside!

**IT LOOKS SO GOOD AT NIGHT, IT'S THE PERFECT DECORATION OR GIFT!**



## MOVIE TIME



4 mins  
The Christmas Story

4 mins  
The Wise Men



### COME ALIVE Bethel Music

Check out this new kids album from Bethel. It's got lots of great music and really easy to sing along to in the car or with your head phones on! There are really good videos linked to album that you can watch and listen to online.  
 The link is: [www.bethelmusic.com/albums/come-alive](http://www.bethelmusic.com/albums/come-alive)  
 My favourite on the album is deep cries out, hope you enjoy!





# STORY

STEPPING INTO GOD'S SALVATION

ONE OF THE BEAUTIFUL THINGS ABOUT THE GOSPEL NARRATIVES IS THAT WE GET TO HEAR THE SAME STORY FROM DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES. EACH PERSPECTIVE IS VALID AND IMPORTANT IN UNDERSTANDING THE FULL STORY.

In Matthew 1:18-25 we are given the perspective of Joseph. Joseph was in the same family line as King David. The fact Jesus is adopted into the line of David is no accident; it reveals something about who he is. Through Joseph, Jesus is adopted into the family line of David and now we can be adopted into the family of God. The promise made long ago that Israel would have a David-like king is fulfilled in Jesus (2 Sam 7:11-16; Jer. 23:5-6). For this reason if Joseph had walked away from his betrothed marriage to Mary God's word would not have been fulfilled in Jesus. The angel's role in assuring Joseph this was all part of God's plan was so vital.

### GOD'S FAVOUR BRINGS PERSONAL CHALLENGES

Mary being pregnant through the Holy Spirit brought personal challenges for both Mary and Joseph. Would anyone believe their story? What about the integrity of Mary and Joseph being on the line? What a way to start family life! Both of them would have to completely trust God with their reputation and future because their story, while true, was such an unbelievable one! It's important for us to understand that being favoured by God will bring personal challenges to our lives. God's favour will bring challenges we would not have faced otherwise. A back-to-front view of God and salvation can lead us to see personal challenges as a sign we are out of favour with him. I wonder if you've ever considered that your personal challenges might be because of God's favour. Joseph had to face the challenges he faced because he was entrusted with fathering the most precious baby ever to be born in this world. That's not what he signed up for when he agreed to marry Mary. However these challenges were because he had such a significant role in God's great story.

### GOD SAVES AND GOD IS WITH US

Although being part of God's purpose brings personal challenges there is much encouragement to be found in the two names Christ is given in this passage. "Jesus" means *God saves* and "Immanuel" means *God with us*. God saves and God is with us! That is the theme in every chapter of every Christian's life.

Firstly he is "Jesus" – God saves. Specifically he saves his people from their sins (v21). We can all see the world needs saved from sin but can we see that we personally need saved from our sins. Can we see that the same evil at work in the world is at work in our hearts? For example we may be able to recognise the sin of greed driving the exploitation of the poor in the world, but do we as easily recognise the sin of coveting in our own hearts which can lead us to resent or envy others? And can we see that coveting is actually what is behind the greed and exploitation of the poor? One of the most important discoveries

WE ARE CALLED TO TRUST GOD IN NEW WAYS AND PUT OUR FUTURE IN HIS HANDS WITHOUT KNOWING EXACTLY HOW THINGS ARE GOING TO WORK OUT.

we can make is that the same evil at work in the world is at work in our hearts. We need Jesus to save us from our sin – from its penalty, from its power and from its presence – and he does!

Secondly he is "Immanuel" – God with us. The Incarnation reveals that God is not distant and passive, but present and

active in this world. This name given to Jesus declares this reality and the act of the Incarnation displays the extent of God's desire to be with us. The most common promise in the Bible is the promise of God's presence. In Acts 17:27 Paul says; "God is actually not far from each one of us." He is near, he is present, he is within reach of every person in this world and he within every Christian by his Spirit.

### PART OF GOD'S BIGGER STORY

To put our faith in Jesus is to step into God's salvation story, the same story as Joseph found himself in. Like Joseph you suddenly realise you are part of something bigger – God's plan to reconcile the world to himself in Jesus! This means trusting God in new ways and putting our future in his hands without knowing exactly how things are going to work out. Is God calling you to trust him in a new way like Joseph? Is he calling you to trust in Jesus as Saviour? Is he asking you to try again at something you feel you failed at? If he is it will be for his bigger purpose and it will likely involve personal challenges. However we can be assured God will be with us at every turn because he is Immanuel (God with us) and as we trust him we'll get to see his bigger story unfolding in our lives & the world. ■

// John Fitzsimmons



## S4G REIMAGINED

Elim's youth ministry launches a fresh vision and unveils its new name. Over the weekend of 22-23 October, as young people came together from across the nation to the Gathering, the new name and vision of Elim's youth ministry was revealed.

Re-imagined as LIMITLESS, the youth ministry enters into an exciting new season with a vision to launch 100 new youth ministries through churches who are not currently reaching young people. For over a decade Serious4God has served young people, youth leaders and local churches across the Elim movement. In 2015, Elim's Centenary Year, that God began speaking to the Serious4God team about entering into a new season.

Very clearly we had this sense that it wasn't for us to prescribe what God was going to do, but to announce that there was a new moment coming," says leadership team member, Rich Ellerington. "So we knew we had to shake things up, we needed a new name."

"With much thought and prayer we have sought God for a way to 'announce and prepare' for this new season," says Tim, "and it is with a massive sense of excitement and expectation I am able to share with you that Serious4God is becoming LIMITLESS."

Leadership team member Laura Hancock adds, "Limitless is an invitation to who we are becoming in God, that we are a limitless movement, a limitless generation!" The future looks bright for youth ministry in Elim, indeed, the possibilities are Limitless.

## THE LIMITLESS PURPOSE AND VISION

As the national youth ministry of Elim Pentecostal Churches in the UK and Ireland, LIMITLESS exists to reach young people, equip youth leaders and inspire dynamic youth ministry through the local church. Their vision includes:

**Reaching young people:** LIMITLESS is passionate about seeing young people reached with the gospel. Their events and mission opportunities are reaching, discipling and transforming the lives of young people all over the UK.

**Equipping youth leaders:** LIMITLESS is committed to equipping youth leaders with the tools they need for ministry through LIMITLESS Academy- a menu of training initiatives.

**Inspiring local churches:** LIMITLESS is doing all it can to inspire dynamic youth ministry through the local church. The regional teams and travelling ministries are serving local churches in their mission to young people.

## SEE A DYNAMIC YOUTH MINISTRY THROUGH EVERY ELIM CHURCH

LIMITLESS Pioneers is a gap year program designed to establish brand new youth ministries in churches without one. A team will go to a church for a year, leaving it with an established youth ministry, locally trained up youth leaders, and an evolved church culture. Young adults can join a team and go on the adventure of pioneering; being trained up as they go, and experiencing the joy that comes from reaching the unreached for Jesus!

# LIMITLESS



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN TOGETHER WITH YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS THE NATION TO BE A GENERATION THAT FOLLOWS A LIMITLESS GOD. YOU ARE A LIMITLESS GENERATION. HE IS A LIMITLESS GOD. TOGETHER WE ARE LIMITLESS.

Check out the video clip to discover more !

# Andrew & Laura Bleakley in NEPAL



Andy comes from Ballymoney where he spent much of his childhood along with his three younger brothers. Being brought up on a farm always meant lots of space to roam. With a love for the world in which we live, this led him to study Geography at the University of Ulster and in the west of France at the Université de Nantes. This is really the time when a passion for international mission came. Laura, on the other hand, grew up in South Africa in the province of Kwa-zulu Natal, an area covered in sugarcane and boasting a beautiful tropical climate. Her home town is Richards Bay and she is the middle child in her family. She studied at Richtek College, specializing in Travel and Tourism, and this along with her extensive travels opened her eyes to the needs which abound across the globe.

**EL:** From opposite ends of the earth, how did you meet?

**Bleakley's:** From our teenage years, both of us have had an interest in world missions and seeing God's kingdom extended amongst the nations. When Andy finished his studies, he joined the OM Ships Ministry in 2001, flying out to board the MV Doulos in the Philippines. Little did he know that he would meet his future wife! Laura was already on the MV Doulos having joined in Thailand about 6 months before. We both spent 3 years on board travelling around the world, spending time in a wide range of contexts always with the ship's aim of 'bringing knowledge, help and hope' before us. Upon leaving the MV Doulos, we moved to South

Africa where Laura continued with her studies whilst Andy worked as a Regional Facilitator for OM in Kwa-zulu Natal.

**EL:** After marrying in 2006, they moved to Northern Ireland where Andy completed his PGCE and started teaching in Ballymena. Laura, meanwhile found clerical work in Coleraine and quickly acclimatized to her new surroundings. During this time they enjoyed fellowship in Ballymoney Elim church.

**EL:** **How many children do you have and how old are they?**  
**Bleakley's:** We have been blessed with two children – Asher and Hadassah. Asher is now 7 whilst Hadassah is 5. Whilst Asher is crazy about animals and superheroes, Hadassah is a real princess and loves anything pink! They are full of life and bring a great deal of joy to our home.

**EL:** **Tell us about your life in Nepal**  
**Bleakley's:** We moved to Nepal in 2012 having never set foot in the country. What a blessing it has turned out to be as we have felt very much at home. Laura, coming from a Hindu background, has a sound grasp of the culture whilst Andy is able to bring his teaching experience. Andy looks after the Humanities Faculty at KISC, a Christian school in Lalitpur, with students coming from all walks of life. It has proved a wonderful opportunity to build into the lives of young people. KISC also has a number of Nepalese partner schools spread across the nation and is able to provide training and support for these rural communities. The ministry has been blessed over the years and we have seen the school expand to a level where we are now lacking space. An exciting building project is underway as we aim to move to a new site in 2018. Laura, meanwhile, gets involved in a number of local projects, of which there is no shortage.

**EL:** **Tell us about UVN**  
**Bleakley's:** United Vision Nepal (UVN) is an organization close to our heart and we seek to support their ministry where possible. The founder of UVN is our fellow Elim worker, Bhab Ghale and he, along with his team, never cease to inspire us in their efforts to see God's Kingdom established here in the Himalayas. The goal of UVN is to see a church and a trained leader in every village in Nepal. They are seeing fruit in some of the most remote areas of our planet and amongst some of the most marginalized communities. ■

# ELIM GLOBAL CONFERENCE

📍 South, Central & East Africa



'Hideaway' is a couple of hours drive away from Harare the capital city of Zimbabwe, nestled on the shore of a beautiful and idyllic lake. It is the perfect location for quietness, reflection and fellowship away from the hustle and bustle of stressful surroundings. The quietness and serenity provided the perfect setting for God to speak through His still small voice, and to capture afresh the lives and hearts of African leaders from Elim Churches across this vast continent. Some 14 national leaders and a total of 54 leaders and missionaries gathered together for two days at the first Elim Global Conference in Africa. To gather with them, was a deeply moving and humbling privilege.

There was worship led by worship leaders from Zimbabwe. National leaders from our Elim Churches preached on a variety of subjects such as:

- » Focus on Leadership
- » Focus on Church
- » Focus on Missions

The vast majority of ministry was presented by the National

Leaders and Missionaries from this area of Africa. This in itself was inspiring as we witnessed the depth of spiritual growth within their lives and gave God glory for the fruit unfolding through many faithful years of sowing into the heart of Africa by so many servants of God. The ministry was deep, profound and anointed. We also were blessed to listen to wonderful testimonies of what the Lord is doing across the countries represented; souls being saved, bodies being healed, churches being planted and vision for Africa being imparted. The churches in Africa have a burning vision and passion to reach Africa through Africans. There continue to be exciting opportunities for us to support this as we continue to partner with our brothers and sisters in Christ for the love of the Gospel.

God's presence amongst us was precious and tangible, resulting in a fresh awareness of His wonderful grace towards each of us and our need to embrace that anointing with reverence and respect as we serve Him in whatever capacity He has called us. As a result, there



**HARARE,  
ZIMBABWE**

**23-25 AUG 2016**

were a number of deeply moving testimonies of reconciliation between individual leaders and groupings, for which we praise God and pray for protection over this beautiful unity in the days to come. Ps 133 – How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! May our wonderful Saviour lovingly command the blessing!

'Together we Sow', to reach the nations of the world for the glory of God. Be inspired and praise God for His faithfulness among the nations! ■

// Roy Johnston  
Irish Missions Director

# TEAM TO ZIMBABWE

On 29<sup>th</sup> August Chloe McHaffie, Lauren Calvert, Gregg McBride and myself, Leanne Carrothers travelled to the Missions Station, Katerere, Zimbabwe on a short term missionary trip. It was very evident from the beginning of our trip that God was very much one of our number. Providing us with constant comfort as we all set out into doing something new in our walk with God. All through our mission we were blessed with unity as a group, protection on the roads and protection against sickness.

Chloe McHaffie is currently in her final year of Midwifery at Queens University, Belfast. God gave Chloe a vision about three years ago involving a map of Africa, lots of pregnant women and Chloe holding a beautiful baby. She knew that one day God would use her in a different country to serve him through her work. During this trip Chloe was blessed with the opportunity of working in the maternity unit of Katerere Missions Station Hospital. Chloe delivered seven babies and we thank God for the safe arrival of each child. Chloe was also delighted to hear of the great news that the first wee baby she delivered was going to be called 'Chloe'.

Lauren has recently started a Social work degree at Queens University, Belfast. God laid missionary work on Lauren's heart at the young age of 5 and then again at the age of 8. She patiently waited until the age of 17 to

go on her first missionary trip. Lauren has been continually serving God on short term overseas trips since that age. During our time in Zimbabwe Lauren got the opportunity to work in the ELD (Early Child Development) room in Emmanuel Primary School teaching the young children songs and poems.

Gregg is currently in his final year of Bible College. Gregg felt within his heart that he wanted to use his College placement to serve God in a different country. During this trip Gregg got to speak on a number of occasions including Sunday church services,

**PRACTICALLY THE PEOPLE MAY HAVE VERY LITTLE, BUT SPIRITUALLY THEY BELIEVE AND TRUST IN GOD FOR EVERYTHING WITH A FAITH THAT IS OVERFLOWING.**

youth services, Bible study meetings and Community Cell Groups. On each occasion Gregg brought a powerful message from God to a very receptive audience longing to hear the word of God.

I, Leanne Carrothers, work with children/adults with learning disabilities. God very much placed a missionary trip on my heart back in February time of this year, along with the scripture Proverbs 3:5-6. During my time in Zimbabwe I was blessed with the opportunity of working in the Special Needs Class of Emmanuel Primary School. I was amazed at the way these kids were taught and was very excited at being shown the new Special Needs Unit; scheduled to open up next year. This unit will make a huge difference in the lives of some of the kids.

As a team we got lots of opportunities to have endless amounts of fun with the kids living within the Missions Station, through playing games, playing football, face painting, relay races, taking Polaroid photographs or simply just sitting chatting. All of which have been very memorable to us as a team, and hopefully to the kids we spent time with. From the moment we arrived in Zimbabwe we were so warmly greeted by everyone in particular Pastor Harry and Pastor Michael. Both of these men pastor churches both within the station and outside in community areas. It was so evident to see that they



carry the joy and sweet essence of the Lord everywhere they go. During our time in Zimbabwe we could sense that the continual lack of water was heavy on people's hearts. Within Northern Ireland water is something that we have endless amounts of and something that we can take for granted. However, in Zimbabwe people face difficult situations due to the lack of rainfall; yet they are trusting God and believing in him for a miracle. Some of the lyrics of a favourite song sang in Emmanuel Elim Church are "every day, every hour, you are faithful O Lord" and this explains the hearts of all the people. Practically they may have very little, but spiritually they believe and trust in God for everything with a faith that is overflowing. As a team we would ask that you remember Zimbabwe in your prayers as they go through this water drought, believing that with God 'All things are possible'.

**THE MAIN AIM OF THE TRIP WAS TO SHOW GOD'S LOVE IN EVERYTHING WE SAID, DID AND WERE ASKED TO DO.**

As a team we thank God for the opportunity of being able to go to Zimbabwe to serve him. Collectively we raised £4,330 through various fundraisers to send out to the ongoing work in Zimbabwe. Again we give God all the praise, honour and glory for the generosity laid upon the hearts of people within the church and local community in giving towards this great cause. It will make a huge difference! The main aim of the trip was to show God's love in everything we said, did and were asked to do. Zimbabwe and everyone within the Katerere Mission Station both young and old now hold a special place in our hearts. ■

// Leanne Carrothers  
Brookeborough Elim Church

## TRAVIS RUNS

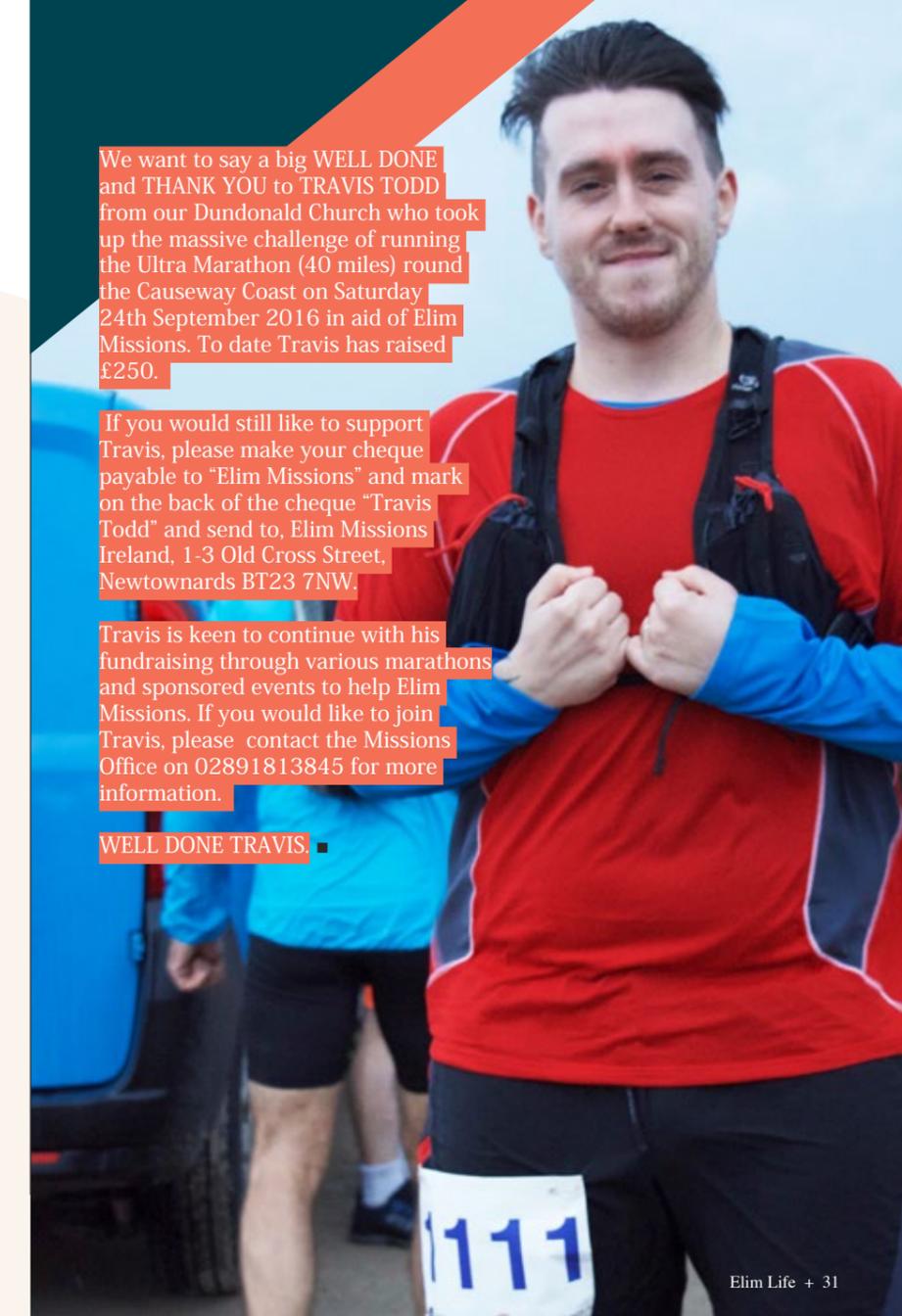
# ULTRA MARATHON

We want to say a big WELL DONE and THANK YOU to TRAVIS TODD from our Dundonald Church who took up the massive challenge of running the Ultra Marathon (40 miles) round the Causeway Coast on Saturday 24th September 2016 in aid of Elim Missions. To date Travis has raised £250.

If you would still like to support Travis, please make your cheque payable to "Elim Missions" and mark on the back of the cheque "Travis Todd" and send to, Elim Missions Ireland, 1-3 Old Cross Street, Newtownards BT23 7NW.

Travis is keen to continue with his fundraising through various marathons and sponsored events to help Elim Missions. If you would like to join Travis, please contact the Missions Office on 02891813845 for more information.

WELL DONE TRAVIS. ■



# ERA

## SOUTHERN AFRICA DROUGHT



**WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR OUR SOUTHERN AFRICA DROUGHT APPEAL AS WE ENCOURAGE CHURCHES TO GIVE TO THOSE WHO ARE SUFFERING FROM A LONG DROUGHT CAUSING A FOOD AND WATER SHORTAGE ACROSS COUNTRIES LIKE MALAWI, KENYA AND ZIMBABWE. PLEASE HELP SUPPORT FAMILIES WHO ARE CURRENTLY STRUGGLING TO FIND A MEAL AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE TO TRAVEL FOR MILES TO GATHER WATER.**

### CHRISTMAS 'GIVE A GIFT' PROJECTS 2016

Our Christmas Give a Gift Appeal is available again this year specifically for Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and includes our Special Global Christmas Party through our "Be Loved" Campaign, which supports vulnerable children. Help us this Christmas to make a difference in the lives of people across our world.

Fill in the slip below and send to the Irish Missions Office, 1-3 Old Cross Street, Newtownards BT23 7NW along with your cheque made payable to "Elim Missions" and write on the back "Christmas Gifts - Goats" (Food Parcel /Baby Milk or Global Christmas Party).

Please tick the appropriate project that you wish to support and we will send you your handcrafted card.

- BUY A PAIR OF GOATS TO SUPPORT A LOCAL PASTOR IN MOZAMBIQUE
- BUY A FOOD PARCEL WHICH WILL HELP A POOR FAMILY FOR TWO WEEKS IN SOUTH AFRICA
- BUY ONE LARGE TIN OF BABY MILK FOR AN ORPHANED BABY FOR ONE MONTH
- GLOBAL CHRISTMAS PARTY "BE LOVED" CAMPAIGN

As an Elim family we want to help bring some light and laughter to children who are living in dark and sad situations this Christmas. So please join with us as we seek to raise £10,000 for a GLOBAL CHRISTMAS PARTY for the children that Elim are reaching out to around the world.

I would like to donate £  to the Global Christmas Party (please fill in amount)

£25

£8

£30



Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Tel:

Email:

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

Please send your donation to: Elim Missions Ireland, 1-3 Old Cross Street, Newtownards BT23 7NW. Please makes cheques payable to 'Elim Missions' and clearly mark on back 'ERA African Drought'

# ANTRIM SUNDAY SCHOOL RAISES £1,419.50

Earlier in the year the Sunday School of Antrim Elim felt led to take the opportunity to teach the children of our church about the important work and role of missions. Included in this very important aspect of the Church, was the idea of supporting missions work and workers by giving financially, just as God asks us to do in in His Word. However, rather than just teaching the children the theory of giving, they decided to put premise into practise, and Sunday School leader Claire Neill put an inventive plan into place.

The Sunday School would raise money for missions by doing a Sponsored Walk in the month of May. During a Sunday morning service, instead of having class together, the children, supervised by the teachers,

would walk a set route around the local area in support of missions. The idea behind the Sponsored Walk was to encourage our children to take the very real and practical needs they were learning about in Sunday School and share these with family, friends, neighbours, whilst seeking to raise as much sponsorship as possible to go out into the mission field. To help "encourage" our young people, Claire came up with an extra incentive - if they raised over £300 in sponsorship, the children could gunge the church's Elder Robert McMordie at the end of year Family Service! If they raised over £400, Pastor Nigel AND Robert would both be gunged!! However, if they raised over £500, Claire herself, along with Pastor Nigel and Robert would ALL be gunged!!!

Needless to say the children latched onto this idea with hearty enthusiasm (as did many of their families!), and when the time came to reveal the amount raised at the Family Service in June, the children had raised a whopping £1,419.50!! The result?? All three volunteers were gunged in front of a packed congregation at the end of the meeting, much to the joy of young and old alike!

Most important of all, our young people got the chance to learn about and support missions, and we as a church are overwhelmed and overjoyed with all they have accomplished. Now we just need new volunteers for our next gunging - perhaps our Irish Missions Director? Maybe even our Irish Superintendent? Let's wait and see.

[www.antrimelimchurch.com](http://www.antrimelimchurch.com)



## JUST £4 A MONTH FROM YOU WILL BE A LIFELINE TO SOMEONE ELSE



£1 IN THE UK PROBABLY WON'T GET YOU VERY FAR: A SMALL CUP OF TEA, A PACK OF DOUGHNUTS, MAYBE A BUNCH OF BANANAS? But around the world your £1 could be someone else's lifeline. We want to encourage you to give just £1 a week, in fact less, just £4 a month to Elim Missions and see the huge impact that this small amount will have on others. With POUNDbyPOUND we want to not only help those who have so much less, but also give everyone the opportunity to make a difference!

For more information and how to give, contact the Elim Missions Ireland office on:

- e: [info@elimmissionsireland.com](mailto:info@elimmissionsireland.com)
- t: 02891 813 845
- a: Elim International Missions Ireland  
1-3 Old Cross Street  
Newtownards  
BT23 7NW
- w: [elimmissionsireland.com](http://elimmissionsireland.com)
- w: [elimmissions.co.uk](http://elimmissions.co.uk)

# WIIIM?

**SO WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THAT PHRASE SAID OR, PERHAPS, EVEN USED IT IN SITUATIONS YOURSELF?** I recently heard a friend of mine say it when my husband had asked him to share his knowledge on a certain subject with our daughter. It got me thinking about Paul's letter to the church at Philippi concerning unity, a scripture that's been impressed upon me now for a time:

**Philippians 2:1-4**

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

It is a call to be interested in the lives of others. Paul urges us to consider how we as believers have experienced unity with the Lord himself and I wonder if you would think for a moment on what you have been forgiven. The measure of our sins forgiven should reflect the level of humility we now have towards others.

Sometimes I need reminding of that, what about you? We are instructed 'to be interested in the lives of others' (v4). I believe we should not underestimate the impact and effect of showing a genuine interest in the lives of others. The number of times I have asked the question in work, 'Can you tell me about someone who was or is a positive influence in your life?' and the struggle that then is visible as they try very hard to find just one person, it is so very sad.

It makes me wonder if we could change that in our churches as was Paul's heart, and in our homes and communities which is the heart of Christ. Maybe in church you could start with someone you don't know or, pray and ask the Lord to show you someone to be interested in. You don't need to start interviewing them or grinning from ear to ear, very unnerving, they may start to avoid church altogether!

**REMEMBER WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN AND OFFER THE SAME GRACE AND MERCY TO THOSE AROUND YOU.**

The goal is not to frighten them just simply make eye contact and smile and say "hello" What you are really saying to that person is "I see you, I know you exist and I'm interested in you".

If you are genuine that can be very powerful. Try it for a few Sundays and honestly you will bless others but you also will be blessed in return.

If you can set yourself that goal for one month or two what you are doing, in Paul's opinion is creating unity which comes through humility. So 'being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind, behaving like the Lord himself. So step out of your comfort zone remember what you have been forgiven and offer the same grace and mercy to those around you.

**Romans 12:10**

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Outdo yourselves in honouring one another.

What's in it for you? - Blessings untold. Go for it! ■

// Julie Joyce

# LOOKING FOR A NEW CHRISTMAS ALBUM?

OR A CHRISTMAS TREAT OR GIFT FOR A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER?

- GIVING IT ALL MARIA GILPIN
- CHRISTMAS VOLUME ONE: NATHAN JESS



CHECK OUT SOME OF OUR OWN LOCAL TALENT ON OFFER, BOTH AMAZING, BOTH CALL PORTADOWN ELIM HOME.



## ALBUM REVIEW

### LET THERE BE LIGHT

Artist: Hillsong

Let There Be Light is the 25th live album of Hillsong Worship. The album was recorded at the 2016 Hillsong Conference, and represents the coming together of the Hillsong church from around the world. These songs were intentionally written to translate across the Church globally. Yet again their team of writers have produced an album with original lyrics and fresh melodies, but most importantly one that points us to Jesus. "What a Beautiful Name" is going to be a

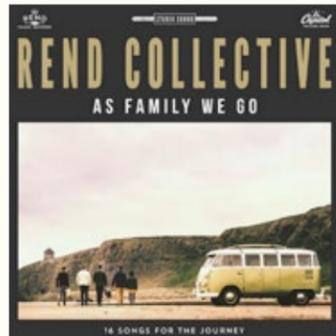
mainstay in your church's worship for years to come. "In Control" and "Your Word" point us to the faithfulness and sovereignty of God, "Grace to Grace" reminding us of His love. Title track "Let There Be Light" is an incredible anthem to sing over people and cities - calling out light in the darkness. Let There Be Light is another classic from Hillsong - a must have for your worship music collection. ■

// Jonny Thompson

# ALBUM REVIEWS

## AS FAMILY WE GO

Artist: Rend Collective



I have really enjoyed writing this album review – the intention and focus I found in doing so has been refreshing. I set out to find an album that would inspire and encourage and settled on Rend Collective's 2015 album "As Family We Go".

There are many great things about this album. I love the feel of this work with its varied tempos and rich lyrics. The racing, energetic song "Celebrate" contrasted with "One and Only" which starts at a gentler pace before rising as it draws you into worship. Inspiring us to be present in the moment and focus on our Great Redeemer.

Then there are the beautifully crafted lyrics and truth in "Every Giant will Fall":

"Every giant will fall, the mountains will move  
Every chain of the past, You've broken in two  
Over fear, over lies, we're singing the truth  
That nothing is impossible with You".

I would encourage you to be intentional today. Set fifteen minutes aside over each of the next few days. Still yourself and have a listen to a song or two from this album.

You will be encouraged and inspired to journey on... I was. ■

//Robert Stewart

## OVERFLOW

Artist: Planetshakers



Overflow is the latest album by Planetshakers church in Melbourne, Australia: the title track for the album being inspired by a prophesy over the church that God would 'overflow' throughout the movement. In true Planetshakers' style, this album is packed with fun, energetic songs but contrary to their other recent albums, there are also a wide range of intimate worship songs that are full of biblical truths with simple, yet powerful choruses.

The song that stands out the most for me is 'River'. This upbeat and energetic song is one that continually stirs up passion

within me making me want to go out and spread God's love and try and make a difference knowing that He is faithful.

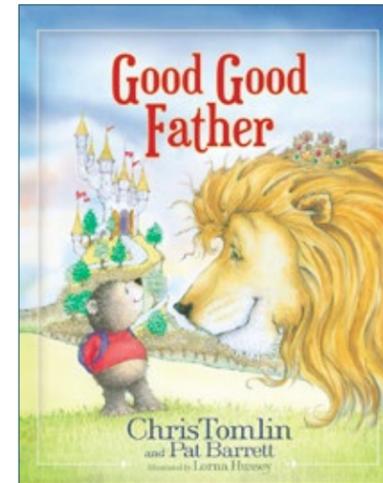
I would highly recommend this album to anyone that is looking for some modern worship songs to sing in their church; some fantastic driving music for the car or even an album that will encourage you to worship our great God. One word of warning: Be careful, a lot of these songs will get 'stuck in your head' and you won't be able to get them out! ■

// Adam McKeag

# BOOK REVIEWS

## GOOD GOOD FATHER

Chris Tomlin and Pat Barrett



With the inspiration of the popular worship song "Good Good Father" this book was written to convey to children from a young age the Father Heart of God and that he is not distant but has an ever open door for HIS children.

The story is beautifully illustrated and conveys how a little bear Tucker wanted to help his friends in need. He sought to find the perfect gift to take to the King, so the King would help them.

Through his journey he discovers some of the lovely qualities of the King. When he gets to the castle the door is wide open and the King comes joyfully running. Bearing all the gifts Tucker is eager to find out what the perfect gift was. Some of the final lines

portray how God sees us his children:

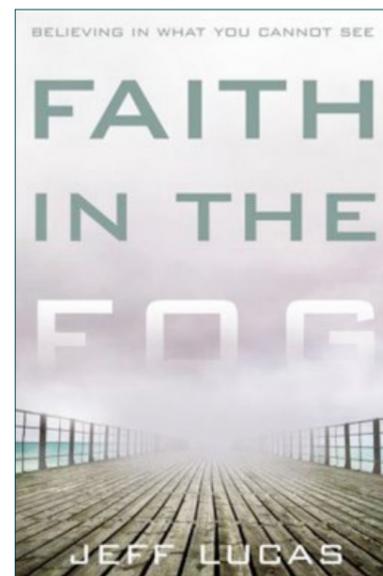
"You are the perfect Gift!", the King told the little bear. "You came to me when you needed help. You trusted me. You bring me great Joy. and I love you with all my heart, the same way I love all my Children"

My seven year ear old Ollie, as soon as we finished reading the book said, "is that like the Bible, is the Lion Jesus and the animals are us?" For this reason I think that this book would make the perfect Christmas Present for little ones in your life, as it instils in young Hearts the nature of our "Good Good Father". ■

// Rachel Thompson

## FAITH IN THE FOG

Jeff Lucas



**Faith in the Fog is a delightfully refreshing book about struggling with faith, doubt and even depression.** Jeff combines, with real finesse, a study of Peter and the disciples meeting Jesus after the resurrection in John 21 at the Sea of Galilee, with an autobiographical account of his early Christian days and the confusion that sometimes surrounded it in church life.

I found this book challenging and encouraging in equal measure - the honesty with which Jeff writes and the questions that he asks are a

great reminder that in our moments of fog, when our faith is lacking, that we are not alone.

With a strong central focus on Jesus and how he deals with Peter after his betrayal, this book tackles many issues which are difficult to talk about, even with other Christians or in church, such as disillusionment, hopelessness and burnout. If you are feeling weary and dry, this book is truly refreshing and real. ■

//Laura McFarland

# Radiate

Be Women

## “What Women Want”

with Jeff Lucas

24th & 25th March 2017



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Visit our Radiate - BEWomen page for more details

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### ‘STRENGTH TO STRENGTH’

#### FOUR DAY COURSE TO RELEASE SPIRITUAL AND EMOTIONAL STRENGTH

with Andrea Wigglesworth & Vicky McEvoy from Vital Connexions

This course is for anyone who wishes to move from strength to strength and also for those who, from a position of strength and healing, wish to help others. The course is also an introduction for the Diploma in Counselling for those wishing to become professional counsellors. The teaching embraces Theology and Psychology, Christian principles of tridimensional healing and is designed to increase self awareness, other awareness and awareness of our potential in God.

**FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> & SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017**

**FRIDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> & SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017**

**VENUE: CULLODEN HOTEL, BANGOR ROAD, BELFAST**

**Cost:** Deposit of £20 to secure a place further payment of £200 per weekend payable on arrival. Early bird - book and pay for the first weekend (£200 before 10<sup>th</sup> January and pay no deposit) of £20



For information on how to book visit [www.vitalconnexions.org](http://www.vitalconnexions.org)

# ELIM LIFE NEEDS YOU

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY OR FEEL COMPELLED TO TELL YOUR STORY? THEN ELIM LIFE COULD BE YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO INSPIRE AND BLESS OTHERS.

## WHAT MATTERS IN YOUR LIFE?



PHOTOGRAPHY



WRITING



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BLOGS

EVERYTHING FROM POEMS TO PICTURES OR BLOGS TO MIND BLOWING EVENTS - HAPPENING IN YOUR LIFE OR IN YOUR CHURCH. WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT!



## REMEMBER IT'S YOUR ELIM LIFE

BE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER!

WHY NOT SEND US YOUR MATERIAL AND SEE IF IT GETS PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT EDITION? WE CAN'T PROMISE EVERYONES MATERIAL WILL GET FEATURED, BUT YOU NEVER KNOW UNLESS YOU TRY!



[ELIMLIFEMAG@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ELIMLIFEMAG@GMAIL.COM)



.....  
YOU SHALL CALL  
.....

HIS  
NAME

..... ★ ★ ★ .....  
IMMANUEL  
..... ★ ★ ★ .....

ISAIAH 7:14