

Excited about Mission!

December 2011

Please don't hesitate to contact me regarding anything in this letter. I would love to hear from you, **especially if you want ideas or help with outreach in your area!**

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This is Discipleship - Check out this fantastic video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rk8ERxqCZqQ&feature=share>



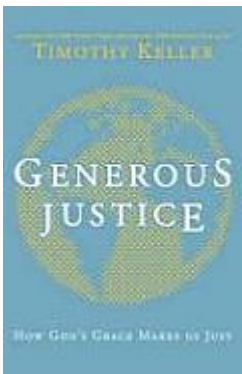
Film Review – Finding Redemption in 'Super 8'

<http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/tgc/2011/11/22/super-8/>

Film makers are not fools. They will only make films that resonate with their audience, an audience that perceives itself as spiritual - Avril Lavigne (a Canadian singer) recently said “I’m on a vegan diet, I do yoga every day, I work out, I’m totally spiritual ...”

Super 8 is a recently released film by Steven Spielberg, about a group of kids making a homemade movie on the old 8mm camera. While filming they witness a spectacular train crash, and their camera captures something escaping from the wreckage. In this very well written review Mike Cospers shows how the plot relies heavily on gospel themes to inspire its audience and make the story come alive. This is a great example of we can interpret modern culture to help us communicate the Gospel to a secular (semi-spiritual) society.

Generous Justice



Cheap price @ 10 of Those

£5.94 - Hardback (RRP: £12.99 Amazon Kindle £6.99)

It is commonly thought in secular society that the Bible is one of the greatest hindrances to doing justice. Isn't it full of regressive views? Didn't it condone slavery? Why look to the Bible for guidance on how to have a more just society? But Timothy Keller, pastor of New York City's Redeemer Presbyterian Church, sees it another way.

In **GENEROUS JUSTICE**, Keller explores a life of justice empowered by an experience of grace: a generous, gracious justice. Here is a book for believers who find the Bible a trustworthy guide, as well as those who suspect that Christianity is a regressive influence in the world.

Keller's church, founded in the 80s with fewer than 100 congregants, is now exponentially larger. Over 5,000 people regularly attend Sunday services, and another 25,000 download Keller's sermons each week. A recent profile in New York magazine described his typical sermon as 'a mix of biblical scholarship, pop culture, and whatever might have caught his eye in The New York Review of Books or on Salon.com that week.' In short, Timothy Keller speaks a language that many thousands of people understand. In *GENEROUS JUSTICE*, he offers them a new understanding of modern justice and human rights.

Reporting Back

St Just - Fireplace Café - Update

Fireplace, we continue to open the cafe Tuesday to Saturday and we are building relationships with our growing group of regular customers. We are also able to help in practical ways, mending bikes, ordering books from Amazon, giving food and encouragement, praying for healing, and providing lighters for cigarettes! Some local holiday home owners have asked for our leaflets to put in their welcome packs.

Chess club, this was very slow for the last twelve months, but recently has seen an increase in people attending and last night we had ten people, of which Mark and myself are the only church people. A really good atmosphere and people open to chat about all sorts including God.

Tea and Toast, on Fridays we have about a dozen young teens who attend regularly, they have half an hour on the computers and then play table games. This has also led to some good contacts with family members.

Prayer Day – Walkley School



Hampden View and two local CofE Churches put on a Prayer Day at our local school. This was a fantastic opportunity to spend an hour with each class looking at aspects of Christian Prayer. We started each hour with the story of the Precious Pearl using Godly Play. Then the class split up into groups and we did three activities with them. They started by finding their own real pearl in a sand pit, they then used wooden and plastic bricks to make a building to protect their pearl. They then finished by making a key fob with beads and their pearl. While all this was happening we chatted with the kids about what they and we valued and what was precious. For us as Christians this includes our relationship with God. The teachers and children really look forward to this annual event.

Prayer Days @ Wellingborough & Barnsley



In the last few months I have had the real privilege of attending two Circuit prayer meetings. Both very different and yet both simply were about seeking God and spending time in fellowship with Him regarding the work of their own area. Wellingborough was held on a Saturday morning at Bozeat and included singing and report backs from each church. We also managed to attract a window cleaner by our singing, and she asked for a request and then sang along with us. The Barnsley

prayer meeting was held at 4pm on a Saturday and we then had a Pea and Pie supper which was amazing. These are both annual events and at Barnsley there were near to 30 people there. I would love to hear from you if you are holding a prayer meeting in your area. Either as a Church, Circuit or group of Churches. If you have not got one planned, I strongly urge you to think about setting one up. Please contact me if you want any thoughts on how to go about it and how to use to time praying constructively. I would love to hear from you.

Away Day at Bradford & Salt Mine Trust



In October the Bradford Circuit held their annual away day, which are always a great day of teaching, prayer, fellowship and food. This year it followed a week of schools work organised by the circuit churches and was run by the [Salt Mine Trust](#). We met at Muffield Church and spent the morning sharing about the ministry and challenges of each church. This was a very special time. Then after a fantastic lunch, The Slat Mine Trust gave acted out the presentation “One Hope” that they had been doing throughout the week in the schools. It was a very professional and inspiring event, that I am sure will have made the kids and teachers think. All the kids went home with a booklet about the theme of “One Hope”.

A Snap Shot on Christmas activities Richmond Church Sheffield

Young People’s Service – Sunday 18th December, followed by buffet lunch. Children from our Sunday Club and mid-week Thursday Club meetings are taking part so we hope that some parents/families will join us for the service and stay and have lunch, so we have time to get to know each other better. Colin Braithwaite is speaking at this service.

Church Carol service – Sunday evening 18th December. A traditional type of Carol Service.

Carols by Candlelight – Tuesday 20th December. This is our main Christmas outreach event. It is quite informal, with a mixture of Christmas readings from a variety of sources, including some scripture passages, plus carols and an evangelistic message. We usually get a number of visitors to this event who don’t attend any of our regular meetings. We have Christmas eats at the end so people have opportunity to chat.

Christmas Day – A communion service at 9.45am, morning service at 10.30am and café service at 6.30pm (informal service and buffet).

Watch Night Service – 31st December at 11.15pm, preceded by refreshments at 10.30pm

Hampden View Craft Afternoon



Last Saturday we held our annual Craft Afternoon. We set out four tables for people to work at, and two tables full of card, glue sticks, felt tips, crafty stuff and craft magazines (to inspire). Anne-Marie made some great cup-cakes and we offered free tea and coffee. Over thirty parents and children came along, as well as eight from Church. The kids and parents were very industrious and made the most amazing things. It was also a lovely opportunity to chat with the kids and parents. Normally after kids club or girls brigade we would only get 5min’s with them. It was also great to get to know two new families.

EaM – Special Series – Church Holidays New Wine 2011

<http://www.new-wine.org/>

This year was our 5th year of going to new Wine. It is a Christian conference held at the Bath and West Show Ground in Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Thousands of people set up camp (or caravan) and then enjoy a week of teaching, worship, fun, fellowship, laughter and lots of time with God. There is a full programme to suit all ages, and you can go to as much or as little as you like.

There was a group of us from the Mission Church this year, 7 adults, 3 children and 3 young people. We were quite a small group compared to some of the churches represented there.



We set up our tents (and a caravan) in a horseshoe shape so that we had a communal space in the middle of us all. As we went through the week God touched each of our lives, and it was a real privilege and honour to be able to share with each other, and pray together. We also had great fun playing, eating, laughing, and relaxing together.

The 3 young girls, aged 16, 19 and 20, were working all week in one of the children's groups – Boulder gang. This group is for the 9-11 year olds. They would go off about 7:30 in the morning and we sometimes didn't see them again until curfew at midnight. They would have their own worship session, then the children arrive and it was a full morning of activities. They had free time in the afternoon where they would hang out with the new friends they had made, and then be back again in their huge shed for an evening session with the children. They saw God at work and experienced Him themselves; they are all booking again for next year.

The young children in our group all went off to their respective meetings for the morning and evening sessions, and they learnt so much and were equally touched by God. One of the little ones invited Jesus in to her heart. There is a great work done in all the children and youth groups.

There are two main venues for the adults to go to, Venue One is a big metal top that holds about 6000 people. Venue Two is a very large marquee that holds about 2000. The worship is awesome and the teaching incredible in both venues.

We went to Venue One, and the day started with a bible study, which was led this year by Andy Hickford from FIEC. Andy opened up the book of Malachi to us, we learnt so much.



Then there is a full programme of seminars throughout the day, held in marquees all over the site. There is a food court and plenty of cafes run by different charity organisations that you can go and sit in with friends. Then there is the evening celebration with a guest speaker each night. We were blessed to hear Mike Pilavachi of Soul Survivor, Heidi Baker of Iris ministries, Mark Melluish and many others. The worship was led by Nick and Becky Drake, and Vicky Beeching. To be able to sing praises to God, and worship Him with so many other people is awesome.

God moved in people's hearts and lives in every session. This is what most impresses us about New Wine. People are touched by God and lives are changed, and it's not to do with which speaker is at the front, it is God, moving amongst his people. There is no shouting, or manipulating, but there is quiet and gentleness and the guys at the front simply listen to the Spirit, and respond to what God is doing.

When people go forward for prayer, this is also done very gently and respectfully, listening for what God wants to say to the individual and speaking His words, or simply just blessing what God

is already doing in someone. Nothing is forced or manufactured, it is such an easy atmosphere, so loving and always wanting God's will to be done.



New Wine is informative and practical, and the leaders are completely open to the Holy Spirit. It's very hands on; if you go to a seminar there is normally a practical bit at the end where you get to try out what you have just learnt.

New Wine runs for 2 weeks, and we usually go for the first week. To be honest, it's because the field is less churned up and muddy, all of the showers work, and we have got to know the hosts and several of the leaders. It is a very family orientated conference with something to suit everyone. On the first evening, once everyone has set up their tents all the cars have to be moved off site to the

car parks, which makes it a very safe place as lots of people, especially the children, get around on bikes. It is a very friendly atmosphere where anyone will talk to you. I would recommend this event to everyone.

New Wine vision statement

To see the nation changed through Christians experiencing the joy of worshipping God, the freedom of following Jesus, and the power of being filled with the Spirit.

To see churches renewed, strengthened and planted, living out the word of God in every aspect of life, serving God by reaching the lost, broken and poor, and demonstrating the good news of the Kingdom of God to all.

Why not contact Ian and Sandra Fall if you are interested in joining them at New Wine next year. They would love to hear from you.

The New Wine website is <http://www.new-wine.org/>

I would love to come and visit your church to speak or chat with you about outreach opportunities in your area. Please get in touch I would love to hear from you.

Yours in His service

Andy Wilcock

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