



Scotland Mission 2011



"GO INTO ALL THE WORLD..."

The torch was lit last year when we were invited by our friends, Paul and Linda Prestridge, to go with them to Scotland. Paul had been called of God to go there and was led to Dumfries where he met Jean, a local woman, who introduced them to many Christians in the community. This opened the door for us to be introduced to the people and to pick up the torch to continue this year the work that was begun last year. And, wow, what an experience we had this year.

The First Divine Appointment

One of the fun parts of traveling on mission trips is to see how God arranges divine opportunities or, "appointments" when you are just sitting next to a person on the airplane or, talking to someone along the way to somewhere. This happened on the flight from Charlotte to Dublin. Debbie was sitting next to a young man from China who was on his way back to school in Dublin, finishing his doctorate. He asked her why we were going to Scotland. Well, that just opened up a six hour conversation about our mission trip and what miracles we were expecting, miracles we have seen in the past, and so on. Every time Debbie would stop talking, the young man would ask another question. He said, "I have never heard things like this before." She talked to him about praying for the sick and seeing miracles of healing. He asked, "Does everyone you pray for get healed?" Debbie answered no and that God may seem to be arbitrary but, there are many reasons why people are not healed that we do not understand. However, she assured him, God loves everyone. He said, "I guess that it is better then to pray for everyone so that they have a chance to get healed because if you do not pray then there is no hope." Wow, what a profound, thinking young man. At the close of the conversation Debbie told him that there is one name he could trust and call upon for help in any circumstance and need and that is Jesus. The seed was planted and we pray that he will be able to take the Word himself to his homeland one day.

Equipping the Saints

In the past, our mission trips have been mostly about people getting saved, being baptized in the Holy Spirit, and being dramatically healed. Although we saw that on this trip, this trip was much more about training and equipping the local believers to operate in the miraculous and to become effective prayer ministers in their own communities. Watching them mature over the period of days we were there was like watching flowers grow and bloom right before our eyes. Their growth was evident when God started moving miraculously through them. We are still getting reports of how they are being used by the Holy Spirit in new and dramatic ways.

This year, the trip was also a lot busier, adding to the productivity of the trip. Last year we had 5 meetings in 8 days. This year we had 18 meetings in 8 days. Last year we met with no pastors, but this year we met with 3 local pastors, developing relationships for future outreach. We are already starting to get ideas and enthusiasm about a trip next year where we can hold meetings that involve several churches working together.

SPIRITUAL CLIMATE

Although Scotland was in the center of a great worldwide revival 50 years ago, it is now difficult to find anyone who even attends church. Large, old, beautiful churches seem to be everywhere, but congregations tend to have less than 50 members and often less than 20. In Dumfries, one of the larger cities of Scotland where we spent most of our time, there are 5 to 6 charismatic congregations each with about 50 in attendance on Sunday mornings. We visited smaller towns where all the committed Christians in town were known by name and could be counted on two hands. So, it seems like most folks in Scotland are either very hungry to know more about God and Christianity, or they have no interest at all.





One of the pastors we met with checked us out beforehand by listening to some of Dan's sermons on the CEC Messiah website. He said that at one point Dan had asked the question of whether healing was for today. He said, "At that point, I knew that the answer to that question would determine whether or not we would be having coffee this afternoon." I guess Dan passed the test because he and his wife met with us for coffee. They were a lovely couple full of the love and fire of God.

Here is an example of the growth we saw happening while we were there. At the very first home group meeting we attended, after singing and worshipping for a while, Debbie had a word of knowledge for one of the ladies in the group. Debbie asked her if

she knew that she was an intercessor. She said she had no clue what that meant - she has only been born again and spirit filled for a short time. So, Debbie and Dan started describing what it meant to be an intercessor. We explained that the Lord would reveal to her a person or situation and then expect her to take some time, probably right then, to pray for whatever need was supernaturally revealed. As we are explaining this to the lady, several others in the group started saying, "That's her! She is always thinking about someone and that they need prayer and then we find out later that they are sick or something." This prescience had been frightening her because she did not know it was from the Holy Spirit. We prayed for her and encouraged her to pursue her gifting and learn to use it for God's glory. Over the next few days, she was in many of our meetings and quickly grew in her ability to allow God to move through her. She often exhibited an uncanny accuracy hearing from God. For example, one night we were doing a practicum on operating in the Ministry Gifts, and by random selection she was chosen to pray for a certain young man that she did not know. Later, after praying for him she said that she felt led to pray that God would strengthen his legs. What she did not know was that this young man was, indeed, suffering from a condition that was causing his leg muscles to deteriorate. He truly needed for his legs to be strengthened!



Fruit From Last Year

This year, we also saw much fruit from last year's visit to Scotland. For example, last year we visited with a sweet Christian lady who was feeling depressed and isolated. There were few Christians in her town and she had no fellowship with like-minded, spirit filled believers. At one point, the Lord had used her for poetic prophecy. But, even this gift had gone dormant. Last year we spent several hours with her and ministered to her through the Holy Spirit with many words of knowledge, wisdom, and prophecy. This year, it was almost like visiting with a different person. She was bright and cheery, once again operating in her creative gift of poetic prophecy, and involved with local ministry and Christians. Last year, the Lord spoke a Word to her that she was an intercessor and that the Lord would bring her into contact with other local intercessors and that she was to intercede for her area. Now, she meets twice a week with 2 different groups for prayer. We celebrated communion in her home before leaving. This is a life turned around - what might have happened had we not taken the time to stop by her house last year....

We could go on and on with stories of God's love, relationships that were built, and miracles. Thank you for being so generous with money, prayer, and encouragement for Scotland Mission 2011. There was a sizable financial miracle without which this trip and the miracles that resulted would not have happened. All in America and Scotland who helped with this trip share in the blessings and eternal rewards and joy of knowing that lives were changed forever.

An electronic version of this newsletter will be up on our website (www.cecmessiah.org) in case you want to share it. We hope that we will be able to go back next year with a team to help these wee ones (like wee birdies with their mouths open wide for God) hear and experience the Word and Love of God in action. Maybe you will want to come with us!?