

Casting the 'net' wider

An update on Grove's outreach through the internet.

Grove has always taken an active interest in overseas work. 2002 was no exception, and in addition to the long-standing bond with the Puno church in Peru, direct links were formed with African churches as a result of the trip to Zimbabwe and Mozambique last June.

However, an extension of Grove's ministry to the outside world, which some may not be aware of, is the church website. It was launched on 1st January 2000, and, on average, 5 emails each week are received by the Pastor or Barry from various parts of the world requesting prayer support, tapes, videos or teaching materials. Many overseas pastors make use of the on-line '**Sermons from Ulster**' provided by Pastor Wilson and other Northern Ireland Pastors. Similarly, others make contact to offer encouragement and prayer support to the Pastor and the church as a whole.

"Just wanted to let Pastor Wilson know how much I enjoy the sermons posted on your website. I am pastor of The Rock Baptist Church in Georgia, USA. It is wonderful to see what God is doing there in Ireland, and to know there is such strong preaching of the word. Please continue to provide more sermons on your website. They have been such a blessing to me, and have helped in my own sermon preparations. God bless, Mike Turner."

"I have enjoyed your website immensely. Your messages are powerful. Keep up the good work." Pastor J.W. Waymire Festus, Missouri, USA

"Thank you for your website and I pray the Lord will bless you and all your congregation, Yours in Christ, Mrs Frances Allen", Titoli, Northern Italy

"I'm just happy that I have found your website and will continue to read it very often...."Dorothy, Canada (ex- East Belfast)

The **Thought for the Month** series is usually a short devotional piece, incorporating a gospel thought and a direct link to a page where there is a very clear explanation of the way of salvation. Some encouraging emails have heartened Barry in continuing to provide this short feature.

At present, the countries we are most in contact with are Nigeria, the Philippines, Iran and the US. Over the past few years, relationships have been built with brothers and sisters who are involved in God's service, as well as with those who are ex-pats or ordinary folk who have happened to hit on the website. Even when emails arrive, understandably written in not quite perfect English, it is still obvious that God is at work. Pastor Jerry Dormido's church (Faith Victory

Baptist) in the Philippines has received tapes and second hand Bibles from Grove in the past and gospel tracts are currently on their way to him. The believers there are actively supporting our fellowship here in prayer. He writes:
“Do you have plans or projects that already on-going or about to start? If it is okay to share it to me so I can help you pray for it. I’ll continue to pray for you (Barry) and your family as well as Pastor Ian and your church GBC.”



Pastor Jerry Dormido and some of the young people of Faith Victory Baptist Church

In fact, Pastor Jerry Dormido and his church will be praying for the upcoming mission and cafe outreach in Grove, as well as our regular activities.

There is an ever increasing work of the Gospel in Benin City, Nigeria. A network of enthusiastic Pastors and ancillary Christian workers there is co-ordinated by Pastor Evbota Godstime. Tapes of our church services and copies of the Grove video have been sent out over the past year or two, which have blessed the believers there and which also have been used for outreach. Packages of audio tapes and/or tracts are sent out every six weeks or so. Just recently, study Bibles donated by friends at Grove were very gratefully received in Nigeria. A gift received on the March Missions Day in Grove made it possible to send another 2000 gospel tracts to Benin City.

“Bro Barry, I was blessed with the preaching video tape, my family were happy and blessed. Also I felt I was with you people at Grove, when watching the tape. I have just started showing your video tapes for mission outreach. You are there in your country across millions of miles away, your messages are saving and healing people here in Nigeria. To God be the glory.”Pastor Godstime (Benin City)



Pastor Godstime, Student evangelist: Isokpunwu Cystus, and Bro Ihionkhan Saturday

Pastor Godstime has set up a tape and video library for use by the churches in his area, using tapes from the USA and Grove. These tapes have found their way to many others, some a long way from Benin City.

"I am blessed of your video tapes message through Pastor Godstime, this has come at hour of need. Our students were blessed and some got converted and the spirit lead them, today was a great day, which we were blessed of your video tape."

Isokpunwu Cystus writes:

"I am a student of the University of Benin. I love to do the work of God.....In fact I was blessed with your sermon video tape of salvation message. There are a lot of lost souls in the campuses and I have to reach them with little of my capacity, but I need more materials like Christian literatures, Bibles, cassettes etc.....Another plan I have is to reach other universities.....nothing less than 35 in Nigeria which has to be touch by the Word of God. I want to thank your people for your co-operation and assistance.".....Evang. Isokpunwu A Cystus, Benin City.

A package of gospel tracts was sent to this brother (above) just last month.

In Iran, there is still a great deal of persecution of the believers there. Packages of tapes were sent out in 2002 which were then distributed. Following a period when tapes couldn't be received, due to intervention of the authorities, it is now again possible to send these church audio tapes.

Brother Ahmed from Iran writes:

"Thank you very much for your email - I am glad you want to help. It will be very kind of you to have the prayer request (for Iran) in your church magazine. I do hope we receive your tapes soonest. Unregistered envelopes are likely to face

postal theft here, but let's pray that even stolen in post, it brings Jesus to that sinner's house.....I do hope I be a good servant to the Lord in all my life.....In Christ we live and will die, AHMED."

You may remember the Millennium gospel tape which was distributed around the local area? We still have tapes available to send out to anywhere in the world and these are still being requested. The audio tapes have been sent to India, South Africa, the Philippines, Iran, Zimbabwe, Australia, Nigeria, USA and closer to home too.

Prayer pointers:

- Please remember our overseas brothers and sisters in Christ as they serve Him in their areas. Pray for their safety as they work for Him, in travelling, distributing and preaching the gospel, especially where persecution is prevalent.
- Please pray that the on-line sermons and gospel messages would continue to provide both help to believers and the means of new life in Christ to unbelievers.
- Please also pray that the tracts (over 1500 sent out in the past year), audio tapes and videos would be used of God to bring many more to the Saviour.