



## “Who are these people? Are they somebody special?”

Fay Nelson

Those questions were asked time and time again by folks in Bideford, England last fall. The questions were prompted by the announcement that a group of visitors known as Creative Ministries would be coming to The Bethel Free Evangelical Church and sharing on Sunday.

We had met Fiona Fuhrman, the pastor, on a previous trip when she was serving as Dean of Women at Christ for the Nations. We had prayed for her as she went to pastor a small church with an aging congregation a year earlier.

The year had seen growth and change and some turnover in people. Sparks had flown at times as Fiona had confronted some issues using the standard of God’s Word.

And another change was coming, us! We walked into the church and into the lives of the people there and we were hooked. As we prayed about the Sunday service, all the things we felt God wanted fell into the category of creative arts. And this was a group of people who didn’t like change!

Our list included songs with the puppet band, a puppet show about the Good Samaritan, The Grudge, and a dance. We all put on cheerful faces, but had no idea if anyone would come or would stay if they came.

They came. They participated. They laughed. They listened. They forgave. They worshiped God as CliffAnn did interpretive movement to “Amazing Grace.” And after church they lingered for over half an hour, laughing and talking—they generally rush out the door to have dinner on the table by noon.

A woman accepted the Lord. And all over people were continuing to ask,

“Who ARE these people? Where did they come from? How did they get here? Are they somebody special?”

We laughed as we heard the pastor answering them, knowing that we’re just ordinary people who happened to say “Yes” to God. However, after that morning the questions changed. They began to ask, “Who IS this God Who saves? How can I get to know Him?”

As we arrived the people were asking the pastor and each other, “Who ARE these people? How did they get here? Are they somebody special?”

As we left the questions had changed. The people began to ask, “Who IS this God Who saves? How can I get to know Him?”

They’re still asking those questions! We returned in February to see for ourselves how they were doing, to share as much encouragement with Fiona and with them as we could, and to plan for our May trip.

Much has happened since September to encourage the members of the congregation. Many have prayed for years that God would bring revival to the church. And God is doing just

that. More people are coming to know Him and becoming a part of that local fellowship.

A steady stream of people and resources have come their way and they are responding. A new believers’ nurture group has started. A church in the States donated a new sound system. Fiona’s network of friends and contacts from Christ for the Nations has helped feed the growing hunger of the people for more of God. And a group of people around the world are praying for that tiny church.

Why all the concern about a small church in an impoverished area in a small town in a western country? The concern is one prompted by God—and the area is strategic.

The Bethel is across the river from Bideford in a community of several thousand known as East-the-Water. **It is the last surviving church in East-the-Water.** It is in a coastal area—and the surfing community has discovered that nearby there are huge waves. The public housing apartments contain hundreds of families who need ministry. And another 500 units are about to be built. And God loves them all and wants His people to reach out to them.

And there is The Bethel, reviving, beginning to catch the vision that God has a plan for them to reach out to those locally who need to hear the Good News, and to the thousands of visitors looking for the next perfect wave or new way to get high.

We’re taking a hand picked team back there in May. The purpose of the trip to do all that we can to encourage the congregation, to lift up the arms of Fiona and other believers, to do our best to answer that all important question, “Who is this God Who saves and heals and how can I get to know Him?” He’s waiting to answer their questions.

## England . . . by the numbers

- \$900**—our homes to the church via plane, train, and automobile, each person.
- \$450**—software we would like to leave for the church.
- \$425**—Portable sound system—works on battery as well as AC. (We’ll leave it there for future outreach.)
- 56**—meals needed for team of 8 for a week—including 5 teens.
- 1,000+**—number of school children and people to whom we will get to minister.
- Priceless**—one person coming to know God’s love, or being set free.

## You Can Invest in the UK!

Yes, **UK** is for **U**nited **K**ingdom, but in this case it is also for the **U**ndivided, **U**nending, **U**nfathomable **K**ingdom of God! As you can see we will be spending a large portion of time in the **UK** in May.

We will be helping a small church finish a much needed room in their building. More importantly we will be prayer walking, doing outreach, ministering in public and private schools, doing a Women’s conference and much more. You can be a part of expanding God’s Kingdom in the **UK** through your prayers

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## Let's Catch Up! (or Where We Have Been Lately) **CliffAnn Perry**

January was full of training. We had 6 different meetings with groups taking mission trips. Most will be going with us in May or June or Aug/Sept. to either England or Zambia but one group from Lighthouse Fellowship needed some help with puppet preparation to go to the Philippines. What a joy to help equip them and know that God used them greatly while they were gone.

Most of February was spent in Zambia or England and then in recovery and office catch-up. While in Zambia we not only did some ministry and taught workshops, we also held a small conference where we got to award the small business grants that Liberty Christian Fellowship has spent most of a year arranging. These will help individuals start a small business, and pay back the grant to a fund that will enable others to do the same. We were so blessed to represent the church and hear the stories of why this kind of ministry will affect the lives of so many.

Our time in England was not only a chance to minister and encourage many in the Church there but also a time to share vision and plan for the trip that is coming this May.

March took us to Cape May Court House, NJ to First United Methodist Church. What a great time of reconnecting and fellowshiping! We did, of course, teach workshops and minister on Sunday.

The next weekend I was asked to dance again for the Mid-Atlantic Women's Conference here on the Outer Banks. It was a good evening of ministry.

Our time has been full and we have struggled to keep up with office work and details for up coming trips but rejoice in all God is doing. He is faithful, as we share the Good News of His love, to bring change in the hearts of people, to heal hurts, cleanse, forgive, set free and meet needs. We serve an amazingly wonderful God!

## We Recommend!



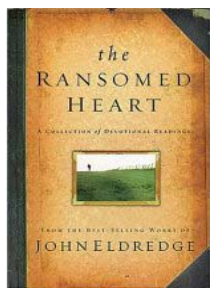
### Selah, **Greatest Hymns**

This collection of hymns done in contemporary and some in African style is excellent! We love the harmonies and style throughout.



### Passion, **How Great is Our God**

A nice blend of upbeat worship music, this CD ministers to us and we know that it will minister to you as well!



### John Eldredge, **The Ransomed Heart**

This book of devotional writings brings the essence of his many books into devotional form. Each one inspires, convicts, and causes us to reflect on God's love for us and His desire to fellowship with us.



### **The Meeting House**

As this newsletter is printing, workmen are completing Phase I of our building—the new roof is on and is being trimmed!

Phase II—floor, plumbing and wiring—is all that remains before we can use it! Thanks for praying and for your help!

## What's Coming Up?

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|-------------|---|
| March 20-22 | Web Design, Pray with us as we meet with Larry Jones who will redesign our web page and become our web master.  |
| April 7-9   | Missions Retreat for those going to England in May and Africa in June. We are bringing people together from 5 different churches and several locations to form these teams and need prayer for them to jell as team members and for the joint preparation.                    |
| April 15    | Easter outreach at St. John's United Methodist Church, Avon, NC.  |
| April       | Other prayer requests for April include our hearing from God about His themes for summer ministry, the writing of scripts and designing of those ministry times, preparations for the England trip and the ministry to be prepared for there.                                 |
| May 12-23   | Ministry in Bideford, England.  |
| May         | Other prayer requests for May include a quick recovery time from the England trip so that we can prepare for the Africa trip in June. Please pray that all the logistics for the trip will go smoothly and that we can zoom through all the office work before leaving again. |
| June 14-28  | Sons of Thunder, Livingston, Zambia   |
| July 10-14  | Oasis Day Camp, Liberty Christian Fellowship  |
| July 16-21  | Oasis Day Camp, Maranatha Fellowship, Wilmington, NC  |
| July 27-30  | Children's Ministry, Compassion International Staff Conference, St. Paul, Minnesota   |