

Paul Bennison's Summer News

SUMMER/AUTUMN 2008

Well, it's been quite a year...! I hope & pray that your year has been good, and I do apologise for the lateness of this newsletter, but the summer (or what there was of it for Brits!) has gone so fast, and it's probably been one of the busiest years I can remember. It's been full of amazing things, and tough, too. Wonderful miracles in Northern Ireland, Sweden, Colombia, England, Serbia... and an enemy onslaught on the time when I have needed to rest at home. I'll try and compact 8 months of news into as little space as possible!



I have to say that I'm finding God's sense of humour wonderfully strange! Amongst many reasons (not the least of which was God saying I should do it!) for moving to the USA, was the fact that I did very little in England, and nothing, apart from occasional trips to Romania, in Europe... well, my year has been full of shuttling back and forth to England and Ireland, soon also to Scotland, and to Sweden and Serbia, soon to be Finland, Croatia, maybe Norway, and who knows where else?! It seems to be accelerating, too: but it seems that God wants me back in Africa next year, and of course, my long-term involvement with Colombia continues.

SERBIA

**“DREAM AS IF YOU’LL LIVE FOREVER:
LIVE AS IF YOU’LL DIE TOMORROW ... James Dean Actor**

It was tremendous to go to Serbia for the first time early in the year (it was more memorable because it was the 100th country I've had the amazing privilege of visiting), with my dear friend, Stojan Gajicki, a great Serb pastor from Stockholm, Sweden. Stojan is a wonderful man, and we get on so well as we share a similar sense of humour (oh, no, I hear someone say?!). Serbia is so poor: so damaged by the war in the '90's, and pretty much unevangelised. Met some fantastic people, especially some great pastors in Novi Sad (a city bombed relentlessly by NATO in '99), Danny & Vera Kuranji. A lady in one of their churches, Maria, came to the meeting bent over at 90 degrees with scoliosis, curvature of the spine. She was amongst the first up for healing, I sat with an arm around her shoulder, and heard these words coming out of my mouth: "Maria, you're going to wake up tomorrow laying flat in your bed, & get up to look yourself in the eye in your mirror for the first time in your life." Seems like it WAS God speaking (I was shocked at what I heard myself saying!). Well, later the next afternoon, we heard that Maria had in fact woken up exactly as the Lord said, and had led a number of people to faith in Jesus on the phone in the first hour or so of the day.... Others were healed, and lives changed.... I'm going back with Stojan next year, and to Croatia and Bosnia, too. I pray that God will do similar wonders in these troubled Balkan nations. I know that God has brought Stojan and me together for more than just the wonderful friendship we have.

NORTHERN IRELAND

A growing and wonderful relationship with a few churches in Northern Ireland, and it has been a real privilege to see God do some wonderful miracles there in the past year or so. At the end of last year, a Pastor of one of the largest churches asked if I'd consider making my UK base Bangor: it was a real blessing, as I've grown to love that town, and God is in the process of providing me with somewhere that I can call 'home' in Europe, which is so much nicer than living out of an increasing number of bags in the boot/trunk of my car. Through a businessman, God has already provided me with an office, and through another a car.... I've been in Bangor 4 or 5 times already this year, and watched the ongoing miracle that IS Jenny Johnston, seen God do some amazing miracles, and gone through the pain, just a little, with a lovely couple, John & Karen, whose beautiful daughter Robyn went home to be with Jesus just recently. When I'm in Bangor I tend to get taken from home to home praying for some incredibly sick people: there seems an abundance of them in Ireland. I'm looking forward to being back there in about 10 days time, and then again in October, where I've had the privilege of being asked to be one of the speakers at the national conference of the Healing Rooms, NI, the ministry founded many years ago by John G. Lake, and resurrected more recently by Cal Pierce. Pictured on page 2 is Andy Putz: it was my pleasure to pray with Andy last October, when he'd been told he had maybe 3 months to live, with Parkinsons, Diabetes Class 1, and Motor Neurone disease, all of them killers, with the last one 'killing me the quickest' in Andy's words. 2 days later he was at the hospital for a check up: saw him Friday looking totally different, telling me (of the hospital) that 'they can't find any of them'!! Saw him in March, and still the hospital seem to have mislaid three killer diseases, and the same story in May!

Praise the Lord, Andy is healed..... and it was lovely to have the privilege of sharing in the last session of a small group of men away together for the weekend. A lovely Pastor, Kelvyn Adams (he was great), did Friday & Saturday, I got Sunday morning. I really wanted to pray and prophesy over all the men, but men are notoriously backward in coming forward for ministry, so I just continued as though it was the 'preach' and walked up to the first man and then changed into pray/prophesy mode! They all got a word, most might never have had anything like it before, and I've been invited to do the whole weekend in March next year.



LAKELAND, FLORIDA

I'd been asked many times what I 'thought' about what was happening in Lakeland, where God seemed to be turning up big time from early April. It's not possible to comment until you've been somewhere, so I went for 3 days with John, my Pastor in the States. It seemed (and still seems) that there are many that wanted it NOT to be God: now some things seem to have 'gone wrong' the critics are out in force. All I can say is that John & I experienced an incredible presence of the Holy Spirit, and you could almost tangibly 'touch' the Glory of the Lord. People WERE healed, lives WERE changed – mine included. A few days later, when I arrived in Sweden, I felt and saw an increased power in what God was doing through me. Pray for Todd Bentley and his wife: God used Todd mightily, & it was wonderful to see someone other than a typical 'TV Preacher' being used. They need prayer and love, they don't need to have their lives shredded by fellow believers.

SWEDEN

Two visits to Sweden this year: a fantastic trip in March, for 16 days, then a shorter visit in June just to **Stockholm**. There were some great meetings in March, and some equally great relationships built... it was great, too, to have for 8 days my dear friends Dave & Clare Cleave with me: Dave is a very gifted musician who prophesies, Clare is a prophetic preacher. I kicked off the trip alone in the church of Pastor friends' Paul and Sirpa Kemi: two super meetings, which led to being invited for the trip back to Sweden in June. God's Spirit turned up in power, and there were some lovely healings – physical & emotional, laughter, tears, and best of all, salvation.

On to **Orebro**, for – what was for me – a nerve wracking couple of evenings following two great Sunday services. Many people prayed for, the 'by-proxy' recovery after prayer of a comatose overdosed drug addict in a rehab centre. Why were the other days nerve-wracking? Well, when I was in City Church last year, my prophet friend Heidi suggested doing a prophetic school. Great plan – except that Heidi was ill and couldn't make the trip, leaving Mr 'I am growing into prophecy more and more but wouldn't call myself a prophet by any means' Bennison to do them on his own....well, that was until I had the bright idea to invite the Cleaves over, and use wonderful prophetic Swedish friends Vello & Ingalill Vaim (well, they are Estonian & Norwegian, actually!). A good crowd came out for the evenings: many prophesied for the first time, and I think between us we did something worthwhile. Pray for Vello & Ingalill as they are just beginning a regular prophetic forum in their city.... It's good to have such a good friendship with City Church's Pastor, Jan Lindeh: I also met an amazing guy the last night whom I 'clicked' with instantly – Morgan Carlsson. A great visionary, high achiever, dynamic – we'll be doing stuff together soon, Morgan, I believe it!!

I was speaking at an Easter Conference in **Alingsas** at the church of wonderful Pastors, Hans & Eva Marklund and their great church, Korskyrkan (Church of the Cross). Hans is wonderfully anointed man, and crazy at the same time (Paul (apostle) DID say 2 Cor5:13 "If I'm out of my mind, it is for the sake of God..."). Wonderful worship, met another amazing young man of God, Daniel Viklund, who translated. He's recognised as one of the best preachers in Sweden, so I was in awe of him translating me. God spoke powerfully prophetically (maybe the prophetic school I did helped me, too!!), and by the end of the evening, Hans, the Pastor, was so drunk in the Holy Spirit, he was crawling away from me on all fours with his jacket over his head... There were a lot of healings, and a huge outpouring of God's Spirit on the congregation. And what can be said of what came next? Two days with the most astonishing church, simply called 'The House', in **Gothenburg**, led by long-time top Christian rock band leader Ulf Christiansson. A wonderful connection with Ulf, with the church, & with the House-ites: two days of impartation, prayer, prophecy, power, and anointing. Lovely meetings, with healings, too, in **Boras, Kungsängen** (with Serb Stojan) and another church in Gothenburg... Two great evenings in **Aneby**, too. I'm back there for their summer conference in 2009. God is doing 'stuff' in Sweden just as He's promised!

In June, immediately after Lakeland, I was back at Agape Church, **Stockholm**, for a summer conference: 5 days in which many were healed, including a lady of Multiple Sclerosis, one of Parkinsons, a man crippled for 20 years or more leaving his zimmer/walking frame behind, then dispensing with his cane/walking stick...

COLOMBIA

It seems that every time I return from Cali, I say it was 'better than last time'. This country, which is, after many years of being denigrated & despised, really on the 'up' with a great President, constantly redefines my life, and my expectations of God. John, my Pastor here in the USA, and a good friend, Alan, from Bangor, Ireland, went with me. The number of people who became Christians was high (for a bunch of non-evangelists!), and the number of healings and miracles really went off the scale this time. Working alongside many churches, primarily organised by my great Pastor friends Hendrik Hoere, Walter Torres, and Diego Reyes, we saw God do so many wonders. At a Pastors breakfast in the church 'Dios esta Presente' (God is present), I learned that Alvarro, the new Pastor (pictured with Diego & me) had been paralysed for 9 months, since his appointment. I asked the senior Pastor, Cielo (means heaven!, if Alvarro could be brought to the meeting. She said it was unlikely. About 30 minutes later, though, with quite a commotion, Alvarro was carried down the church, seated in a white plastic chair, by 4 or 5 men. It was just like the man lowered through the roof to Jesus... I got Alan to kneel on the floor in front of him, holding his knees and lower thighs, & prayed. Within moments, Alan almost shouted that he could feel muscle and bone growing and moving under his hands, and in less than 5 minutes Alvarro walked across the church just steadying himself on mine & Diego's arms... 2 weeks later, I was preaching at the same church in a healing meeting, when Alvarro walked in. There was a great deal of rejoicing in the church that night, and it made it rather easier to pray for people! At the same breakfast, I was met by Fernanda, whom I'd prayed for in November. She had cancer of the thyroid: it was hugely swollen, & her thyroid reading, which I'm told should be between 0-5, was 297. Doctors told her she should be in a coma. The next day, her swelling had gone, and her reading was 0... her daughter had been born with serious kidney problems, and they were scarred. She couldn't pass water. Well, Praise the Lord, she got new kidneys! In November, Maria Fernanda had cancer, and as a result, had been told that she could never have children... God did a wonderful miracle for her and her husband, as she was healed of the cancer, and was 6 months pregnant! One Sunday meeting in July, I was asked to pray 'by proxy' by a lady whose was in a coma. That's all I knew then. At the healing meeting, Pastor Cielo, and then the lady herself, told me that the man had been in a car wreck on January 26 (it was July 23, so 6 months): doctors had said to the family they should switch off the machines on January 27, he would never recover. The family fought to keep him alive, & the they timed it almost to the minute of the prayer, the man's mother accidentally pulled out his tracheotomy tube. Doctors fought to get it back in, but the hole closed almost instantly (it normally doesn't start to close for 24 hours). As they declared there was nothing they could do for him, the man opened his eyes, sat up... & on the 27 July, gave his testimony in church! And I could tell you about Angela (astounding story!!!!), Diana, Camen, and hundreds more... their stories are in my blog if you want to look for them (all in July!).



And this is a story I won't ever tell from a platform, simply because it is impossible to get documentary proof from a poverty-stricken Colombian hospital... Pastor Walter took us to Buenaventura, Colombia's main port, first to speak in a wonderful church in a jungle area (church motto: "The history of our church was written on its knees"), then to the hospital. It was pretty close to being the poorest hospital I've been in, and I've been in some poor ones. First day, a number of people were healed in the wards, and I suggested we go back the next to pray in Emergency. On arrival, we heard a poor lady wailing: it was almost unearthly. She was carrying a very sick looking little girl, but it wasn't the girl she wailing about; it was her 4 year old son, Andres, who had died 10 minutes or more earlier, with cerebral malaria. If you know me well, you know my passion and my goal is to see the dead raised, having prayed for 10 who remained dead. John, Walter, Diego, & I went to pray for Andres. I held him, with a hand on his chest, and we prayed for about 45 minutes. I felt and saw, & the others saw, his chest start to move. At that moment God spoke to me so clearly: "O.K, you can leave now!" I told God I didn't want to leave, but he said "Out, now". I told the others I had to go, but that they could stay if they felt God had given them freedom to do so. I was in tears as I walked away asking God the very question we should never ask, 'Why?'. The reply came very clearly: "You've done your bit, now I'll do the rest. I don't want to risk you saying "I raised the dead". I hope that would – and never will – be my story, as I always say before praying for healing, that I can't heal anyone... but on the way home, back to Cali, I heard the same voice say to, "It's done!!". 72 hours later, a prophet from Tennessee, Rodney Nelson, whom John & I had never met or even heard of, prophesied over me, "God says that the dead is raised, and there's more to come. I've let you see it, I've let you be part of it..." The whole prophesy is on my webpage, www.paulbennison.com, under the 'Who is Paul?' tab, and 'What other people say...' if you want to read it. It was truly the most humbling, amazing, wonderful, awesome thing to be part of it, and to feel life come back into Andres' body.... Loads more stories in the blog on the website!!!!

DIARY/AGENDA

SEPTEMBER

- 4-5 *Fly to England*
6-7 *Selkirk Baptist Church*
8-12 *Bangor, Northern Ireland*
9 *West Church, Bangor*
11 *Victory Church, Dublin*
(tbc)
12-14 *Southside Baptist Ch, Ayr*
17-22 *Romania*
24-2 Oct *USA (home)*

OCTOBER

- 3-4 *Fly to England*
5 *Kingsbridge Baptist Church*
7 *Bangor, Northern Ireland*
9-11 *Coleraine, NI – Healing Rooms Conference, Ireland*
12-16 *Bangor*
19 *Frensham Baptist Fellowship*
21-29 *USA*
30-1 *Fly to England*

NOVEMBER

- 2 *King's Church, Wellington*
3-8 *Romania*
9 *Vineyard, Melton Mowbray*
12-14 *Rhinos*
16 *City Church, Plymouth*
17 *Fly to USA*
19-5 Dec *Cali, Colombia*

DECEMBER

- 5-9 *USA (home)*
10-11 *Fly to England*
12-16 *Romania*
17-18 *World Harvest Ctn Centre,*

UNITED KINGDOM & UNITED STATES

So many churches visited, some regular, some for the first time, and many more to come! **Maidstone, Frensham, Bangor, Clontibret (Co. Monaghan, Eire), Orpington, Addlestone, Haslemere, Plymouth, Exeter, Twydall (Gillingham, Kent),** and the **Detling Bible Week, Maidstone...** many people blessed, not the least of them being me! – and a good number of healings, calls to mission, salvation... It is so wonderful to be involved more in Britain: it just never happened when I lived there!

Detling was fantastic: daunting for me, though, as I spoke in place of my fellow Rhino and great mate & great preacher, Steve Hepden, who couldn't make it: sandwiched between R T Kendall, the great Bible Teacher, and John Paul Jackson, the amazing preacher/prophet/dream interpreter... Many responded for healing, despite it being me, and not Steve! I shared seminars with other fellow Rhinos, Eric Delve & John Pressdee, and with my great friend, Ugandan missionary to England, Arnold Muwonge. The link with Arnold is taking me to Uganda next year, for his Pastors & Leaders Conference, and open air healing crusades... another African missionary to England, Wale Babatunde, & I connected instantly: Wale heads up a growing network of churches in England, Africa, Canada (World Harvest Christian Centre), and he's invited me to speak at his churches' conference in December.

The next few months are very hectic, across the UK, into Europe, and back to Colombia (**Selkirk, Bangor, Ayr, Kingsbridge, Frensham, Wellington, Melton Mowbray, Plymouth,** and possibly one or two others. Next year is looking to be SO busy I'm almost afraid to try and plan the agenda!

Some great meetings, too, in the States, in my home church, in Williamsburg, too... I really must plan to try and get to more of the churches across the States I have friendships with!

AND FINALLY....

I'm so blessed to have so many people who pray for me: this newsletter goes out to well over 1,000 people, a lot of whom I know pray... Please pray for wisdom as I plan out next year: I want to be a good steward of time, money, and energy, and it would so easy just to try and say 'yes' to everything... so many countries with invitations pending, and churches, too, all over the place. It hasn't been easy this year, with a major enemy 'assault' on my rest time at home, through something as minor as burst pipes, which, until now, have occurred on my last 5 times at home...resulting in having to dismantle the kitchen, which is still being put back together.

It's also been tough with airfares: prices of tickets have just gone out of control with the soaring cost of fuel and the unbelievable taxes that Governments everywhere seem to levy on travellers. So many airlines have 'gone under', which just decreases the competition and hikes prices even higher. I desperately need to raise my regular support base: every pound/dollar helps, no regular amount is too small. If you can help by supporting me, I'd be so grateful. Thank you for your love and prayers.

Regular support can be given through Stewardship, with the benefit of 28% Gift aid recovery (their minimum, now, though, is £10 a month): P O Box 99, Loughton, Essex IG10 3QJ.

Dove Trust, through my website – www.paulbennison.com

One off gifts (UK) to me, c/o 13 Meadow Way, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 1UF (USA) to me, at 2929 Leta Ct, Hampton, VA 23666

Thank you, and bless you!

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