

Paul B's Christmas News 2006

November /December 2006

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS...

With Christmas seeming to come 'earlier' every year, I'm happy to know that my greeting is at least not the first to go out! I hope and pray that you will have a lovely, peaceful, and blessed Christmas, and that 2007 is a year when you see the abundant grace of God in your lives, and in everything you do. God bless you loads.

CHANGE AS GOOD AS A REST??

Over the 28 years that it has been my privilege to serve the Lord in some form of full time ministry, there have been many, many changes... amazing highs (countless numbers), a number of lows, but ALWAYS change. It has been an amazing journey so far: truth is, I don't know that I'd want a life that wasn't constantly changing in some way or another, and 2006 has certainly been a year of change! *With mum's illness, which heralded 2006, continuing to deteriorate; my own blood pressure issues proving to be vicious but thankfully fleeting; the burglary & the fire at my flat in Worthing mentioned in the June newsletter, the first 6*

months proved 'interesting' to say the least! A further burglary (yes, really!) after the newsletter was sent out, 4 weeks after the first one, caused me to vacate the flat as quickly as possible! My future and home were once again in the hands of the Lord, with no means to purchase or rent, just trust, as for the 20+ years before. After talking & praying through with the men to whom I am accountable, and with other friends who have access to my life, it was overwhelmingly agreed (with no permanent home in England materializing) that it was time to allow God to fulfil a 12 year old prophetic word for me to move to the USA.

Long story short: two wonderful businessmen friends have invested in a house for me in Hampton, Virginia, where I have a long-time relationship with a lovely church, Restoration Christian Centre, and especially with its pastors, John & Mary Crowder. John really IS one of my best friends, has been for 10 years: the church is small right now, but it is known for caring in great depth for people with 'checkered' histories, seeing them restored ready to move on and out into the wider call of God on their lives. But there's a sense now that the church is on a launch-pad, ready to take off and grow: John was in Colombia with me for over 4 weeks in Sept/Oct, and saw God move like never before. It is good and right to be with John & Mary, and it does at least put me on the same continent as my daughter and son-in-law, Joshua, Katy, and my two grandsons! Had a lovely few days with them in June....

As I said in the June newsletter: I'm not 'abandoning' the UK. In fact, I'll be there just as much, but living somewhere else! So, if I ever come to mind when you are looking for preachers, please get in touch!

It has been a year of many wonderful ministry opportunities, some fulfilled, some 'on hold' while those changes have taken place. Many weeks have (again!!) been spent in Colombia, and Romania, the UK and the USA...The last couple of years it has been right to focus on specific places rather than 'crop dust' a lot of nations. This year, some wonderful friendships deepened, some great new contacts and friendships built, and opportunities arisen to return to 'old' places and visit 'new' places. On hold for the (near?) future are Haiti, Cuba, Malawi, Pakistan, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Mexico, possibly Greenland (in the summer!) & Iceland.

2006 has been a year in which God real has is pressed his foot more firmly on the accelerator/gas pedal, and opportunities to preach, and the urgency of the times we live in seem high on His agenda. I am grateful that fruit from the ministry God has called me to has never been so evident as it is now, with salvation much more frequent and in greater numbers, and the number and scale of people receiving healing increasing rapidly.



With John & Pastor Gilberto Velez at Palmira Jail

UK & USA

I always love opportunities to speak in the UK: though for me, they have been too few and too far between! It has been great to be with churches in Troon (Ayrshire), Plymouth, Exeter, and Addlestone, to see God move in some measure as it is my privilege to see him move in other nations.

In **Seagate Church, TROON**, it was wonderful to be with Graham & Margaret Wallace, great friends for many years. God is moving in that church, & there were some lovely reports of healings in the days following the weekend there.

City Church, PLYMOUTH, which I've visited on and off for, I guess, more than 15 years, is always a blessing, a church which loves to be challenged and stirred up. God did a bit of that, as he loves to do!

Maranatha Church in EXETER, is a church moving big time in mission and power ministry, and is a real

'fun' church to go to as well, full of life, vitality, and passion: it was a privilege to pray for many at the end of the meeting.

King's Church, ADDLESTONE is a 2nd home I think(!), with many wonderful friends there. They bless me immensely with love and care, rides to Heathrow airport (often at extremely unsociable times - thank you Keith, especially, and Richard & Hilary!); allow me to park my car, often for weeks at a time, en route to the airport (thank you, church)! I'm due there in a week or so as I write this letter, so no recent report yet, but a good time there in May!

In the June, I received an invitation to go and pray for a lady named Karen, in **Orange County, California**. Karen has been very ill most of her life. She and her husband, John, had heard of some people whom God had graciously healed when I'd made past visits to their area. It was a great joy to spend a few days with John & Karen, and to see God begin a process of peeling away years of sickness, infirmity, and bring a real sense of hope. That process is still continuing, and I believe the day will be very soon now when more than 45 years of ill health will be history. I still sense it will be Thanksgiving, Karen! By the time anyone reads this newsletter, Thanksgiving (late November for non-Americans!) will almost be here... A number of visits to what is now my home church, Restoration Christian Centre, **Newport News**, too: always a great time there, now long may it continue on a much more regular basis!

RHINOS

*A great 2½ days away with the guys I'm accountable to, known as the 'Rhinos': I've been blessed so much by them over the last few years, and 'inherited' from them a desire and burden for the wars: because of this burden, our July 'retreat' (advance??) was near **Livarot, Normandy, France**, praying as always for each other, but also in places where the second world war caused so much carnage and destruction. It was a memorable time together, and I'm so grateful for these men of God who love me and care for me enough to hold me, laugh & cry with me, beat me up when I need it (not physically!), but more importantly put me together and affirm me. (By the way, I discovered that Rhinos - who of course weigh about 2 tons - can only see 30 feet (9 metres for foreigners!!) in front of them, but still run at 30 miles an hour (50 kph) - and a collective of them is called a 'crash'! Maybe it is appropriate....)?*



JOHN'S BIT!

(I asked John Crowder, pastor of my church, and having just been on his first overseas trip with me, to Colombia, to write a little of what he experienced... here is his bit!)

I have recently returned from a five week missions trip with Paul to Cali, Colombia where I witnessed first hand some of the miracles you hear and read about. For many years Paul would invite me to join him and see God do great things. Just hearing all the stories he came back with would make anyone hungry for more of the Lord. When someone begins to share with you what they have experienced you think that sounds wonderful, but could that happen for me. I went to Cali with an expectation of God doing the extraordinary and I was not in anyway disappointed. There was this sense of anything was available if you had the faith to believe for it. On several occasions I saw Paul in a different light as one exercising his God given authority in speaking life over the people he prayed for. He spoke what they needed and many responded to that word by leaving the hospital healed. On one occasion we prayed for a man who was paralyzed from the neck down and could only eat by his sister hand feeding him. We approached his bed with smiles on our faces as we spoke to his family. Paul with boldness prayed for the man to receive health to his body and spoke that he would run and not grow weary. I believed God could do this, I just didn't know when and so much to my surprise something exciting did occur. We had entered the next ward to continue



Rafael, healed of cancer...Cali

praying for the people, maybe five minutes had lapsed when we heard this screaming, laughing, and crying coming from the next ward. It was the man's sister who was looking for us to come and see what God had done. As we entered the room there sitting on the side of the bed sat José, moving his arms and legs and speaking, tears flowing down his face. He began thanking the Lord and us for praying for his condition. They following week as we returned to pray for other people we were informed that Jose had walked away from the hospital.

Later word had spread to us that because of José's healing, many others received healing. After the last visit to the hospital, some thirty men had called the local radio station testifying of the miracles they had received. I saw more miracles of this type than I have in all my years as a Pastor.

I left Colombia with these thoughts in mind, what happened there can and will happen wherever we are if only we expect them to occur.

COLOMBIA

What can I say, other than God is moving INCREASINGLY mightily in Cali? Best trip there ever? Yes, I think so! Arriving with John, my Pastor, right at the outset, at the meeting to discuss the schedule: Laura, a young woman from the church that is my 'home' there announced, before any programme was discussed, 'Last time you were here (March) you prayed for my chronic asthma, and God healed me'... that set the tone for the trip! so much happened in the next month, I can really only report it in 'shorthand'!

- First night, God gave John some words in Spanish (he doesn't SPEAK Spanish) which were prophetic for the church next day. He then had prophetic words for just about everywhere & everyone for the whole trip...reckoned he could prophesy 'over a rock!!'
- salvations and healings in every meeting, often with a real outpouring of the joy of the Lord
- Palmira Jail (maximum security) - I had a long and wonderful conversation with a Turkish Muslim, who asked for a Bible so he could discover the truth (he got that 2 weeks later)
- University Hospital - a man, 45 yrs old, cirrhosis, leukaemia, skin green (doctor's had no idea why), paralysed from waist down. Prayed for him, & God gave me just the few words from Isaiah 'You will run'... 3 minutes later, he sat up, said to his daughter 'I have to run' - and set off running round the hospital! (many others healed that day!)
- 'Beautiful House' (Villa Hermosa) jail (misnomer or what?!) - can only describe it as revival!! In one of 14 courtyards (350 men in each), some music, a short drama, then a short 'preach' - I made an appeal for salvation, and in excess of 200 men gave their lives to the Lord! Prayed for all of them (John announced it was the first time he'd ever been totally exhausted praying for people) - many were healed, flat on their backs in front of their peers crying and laughing! Last, a guy named Luis (covered in scars) came to me and asked to find Jesus: he did, asked for forgiveness & grace, then requested prayer for wisdom, as he was the yard's 'boss'; wanted to know how Jesus would want the yard run! Discovered afterwards that he'd been a hit man (19 murders) and much, much more...
- University hospital, met Rafael (a few days to live with bowel and anal cancer): his family asked for prayer.. said to him that often I lay my hand on the 'afflicted' part,- he said 'you're welcome to do that - everyone else does!' - told him that his stomach would do (!). Just KNEW he was going to be healed...the photo of him was the next week, healed, and waiting to go home. Praise the Lord! Straight after him, was at the bed of Jose, mid forties, paralysed from neck down, unable to speak, and dying: in minutes, he sat up, waving his arms and kicking his legs... his sister was like Tigger, leaping, running, laughing, crying, shouting... Jose went home 2 days later, but in those 2 days, he'd told other men in his ward as he used the bathroom, what had happened to him, and THEY got healed too!! Healed at the urinal.. I love that! Jalber, 38, also pictured, was dying with cirrhosis, pancreatitis, and lymphoma: his stomach area so distended: he was lying foetal-shaped and crying, but a week later went home, with absolutely nothing wrong at all. I have him on video I anyone ever wants to see his testimony



Jalber (centre), from Cali, miraculously healed (with translator Diego)



Jhon Milton (2nd right)

- A wonderful new friendship with Pastor Jhon Milton Rodriguez: Jhon began the church 7 years ago with 7 people (including his family of 6!); now, as well as having 7 churches in other cities that he has planted, he has 16,000 in his Cali church! A great privilege to be involved in a youth service one Saturday afternoon (often, in my experience, words like 'youth' and 'family' ahead of service = a kiss of death!!)... well, John & I were greeted by a wall of sound, and over 5,000 passionate and wild young people. Over 1,000 gave their lives to the Lord that afternoon... amazing worship, fantastic drama, and the incredibly loud presence of God!

- Two weeks running at the University hospital, saw around 90% of the men in the medical ward (40+ men) go home healed: the last visit had 30 men at least phoning the local radio station & calling the church of the pastor who got us into the hospital, the next day, to say that they had gone home healed - including men with AIDS, cancer, TB, and much more...
- The dad of one of my translators Diego (he is pictured with Jalber), Jose, 78 yrs old, was chronically sick - cirrhosis again, extremely frail: almost carried into a meeting, but within minutes was marching round the room, waving his stick in the air, doing exercises, totally healed... he told all his friends, and well over 100 turned up at Diego's home (for what was supposed to be an afternoon of relaxation in a swimming pool and in the sun!) for a meeting. Lasted 5 hours, including prayer: an elderly lady, 95% blind, asked for prayer: the words 'you will wake up in the morning and see' were out of my mouth before I could stop them. Four days later, Diego emailed to say that she saw perfectly, and all other pain her body had gone... God is so wonderful! Many miracles and blessings that day... Please pray for a 30-something year old guy (Francisco, I think), whose spine was severed in a road accident: I had such a sense he will walk - soon. His would be such a testimony!

About 2,500 saved in all, in just over 4 weeks: hundreds received miracles, lives were revolutionized, existing relationships strengthened, great new relationships formed - please pray for a wonderful pastor and his wife - Juan de Dios (John of God - very apt!!) and Ana Lucia Arbelaez - new and great friends: pastor the church where Diego's dad was healed, and next year, Juan de Dios might well run for the position of Mayor of Cali: how astonishing would it be for that city to have a wonderful, Spirit-filled Mayor?

FUTURE....DIARY

So, what next? As already mentioned, an abundance of invitations for next year, including many back to Africa... I'd really appreciate your prayers as I look to put the diary together - I have this sense that God is keeping everything 'short-dated' still, and so apart from a Colombia trip in March, and probably Romania in February, no 'countries' are booked in right now. That will change in the next 3-4 weeks or so, so if you would, please pray for me as I begin to slot things in?

PRACTICAL...

As you can see from the list of countries that God has opened up for me, there are no 'rich' ones! As always, Christmas is a tough time for people who rely on the support of others, so I'd value your prayers, and your practical support, if can help me, in order that I can at least begin to budget and plan. I long for the day when regular support, which I guess would equate to a salary (!) is enough for me to begin to budget with! Airfares are climbing all the time, or perhaps I should say the taxes are (in the bizarre situation that tax on a ticket can often be 200% of the cost of the ticket!!). Stewardship is a great organization for processing gifts for the likes of me: they do all the graft at getting tax back if the gift is tax-

reclaimable (P O Box 99, Loughton, Essex IG10 3QJ, or 32 Highfields Mead, East Hanningfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 8AX). I can supply gift aid forms if you'd like one. If you don't pay tax, gifts can be sent straight to me at 9 Hazel Grove, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 9JD, or 702 Soho Street, Hampton, Virginia 23666.

People often say, 'I could only afford £5 a month, or \$5, it's too little': but with tax back (in the UK) that's more than £6.25: and 100 people giving that a month pays an airfare to Colombia, for instance! That would totally revolutionise my life, to be honest! Please let me know if you can help?



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PLEASE ALSO AMEND YOUR MAILING LISTS FOR ONE OR OTHER OF MY NEW ADDRESSES PLEASE! (The Arundel one above, or USA). My mail redirection ceases early in December!