



# Jesus in the City

## Open Meeting

8 May 2006

## Kensington Baptist Church

### 1 Introduction

#### *1.1 Open*

Roger Sainsbury opened with prayer.

#### *1.2 Present*

Present at the meeting were: Bill MacDougall (Trinity College, Bristol); Dave Wiles (Frontier Youth Trust, UK); David Pendle (YMCA, Bristol); Erica Dunmow (Urban Mission, UK); Emmanuel Ilayesa (Elim City Church, Bristol); Jon Durlley (Church Army, Cardiff); Lee Barnes (Easton Christian Family Centre, Bristol); Michael Eastman (ECUM, UK); Michael Shaw (Re:Source, Bristol); Patton Taylor (Union Theological College, Belfast); Paul Hazelden (Crisis Centre Ministries, Bristol); Phil Vickery (Gweini, Wales); Roger Sainsbury (JITC Chair); and Terry Jones (Baptist Union, England).

Andy Paterson (Kensington Baptist Church, Bristol) joined most of the above for lunch.

#### *1.3 Apologies*

Apologies had been received from: Andrew Davey (Community and Urban Affairs, Church of England); Dean Pusey (Southwark Diocesan Youth Adviser); George Kovoov (Trinity College, Bristol); Iain Hoskins (Bristol Baptist College); Jenny Richardson (Church Army Lifelong Learning Co-ordinator for Evangelism and Fresh Expressions, Sheffield); Richard Reddie (Churches Together in England); and Simon Stevens (St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School, Bristol).

#### *1.4 Introductions*

Everyone present introduced themselves.

There were two items of news: Pastor Emmanuel, who was in Glasgow, has moved back to Bristol now; and Andy, the Minister of Kensington Baptist, will join us for lunch.

### 2 Bible Study: Jubilee Jesus

Roger Sainsbury led the meeting in a Bible Study from Luke's Gospel.

In his introduction, he explained that in Glasgow, we looked at 1 Corinthians,



with the theme of 'through a glass darkly'. He was recently at the SCUPE conference in America, where Robert C Linthicum was speaking, and the 'Jubilee Jesus' section of his recent book 'Building a People of Power' might provide a similar focus for the 2007 congress.

Roger suggested that we could have a different approach to Bible study from the one chosen in Glasgow: we might get different groups to look at different passages, and then have some mechanism for the groups to report back to say what has been learned to the whole congress. The Bible Society might get involved with this aspect, perhaps producing some notes to guide the groups? Mixing the Biblical material with local stories worked well in Glasgow, and that aspect should be retained.

An outline of suggested Bible studies will be circulated with the notes of this meeting.

### 3 Programme

Our aim is to give each of the main days a similar rhythm. Thursday would be mainly handling the mechanics of people arriving, with maybe a civic reception.

On the Friday, we would be coming together in working groups for Bible study and reflection, sharing this experience with the same group of people each day; taking part in a visit; having lunch; doing a second visit (maybe further away from Bristol – Wales and seaside towns such as Weston-Super-Mare are a possibility); then coming back to the group to reflect on the visits; eating; and then finishing with a celebration, which would involve both a named speaker with a national perspective and others with a local perspective, and would be open to the local churches.

Saturday would be similar. We hope to provide a smorgasbord of organisations and ministries – as wide a range as possible – providing workshops. This both provides a resource to the congress members and also enables the agencies to come together in a meaningful way.

On Sunday, we share in worship instead of the site visits, preferably with people from a different tradition, then back to work on the Bible study in the working group. There will be an open worship time in the evening.

Monday is a commissioning day. The worship would include an act of commitment, and would look forward to the next congress: the focus is on sending out and carrying on the vision.

In constructing the working groups, we plan to put people together from the same area, and enable them to build relationships that can continue afterwards.

It was reported that Jim Wallis is enthusiastic to come. Bishop Roger will write to Jim Wallis and Kathy Galloway of the Iona Community. Richard Reddie and George Kovoov have agreed to speak.

**Action: Bishop Roger**

We are looking towards Edinburgh in 2010 because this is significant as the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Edinburgh International Missionary Conference, which laid the foundations for missionary work in the last century.

### 4 Discussion

The meeting was asked if there is a statement of the aims of Jesus in the City.



Michael summarised the content of the briefing paper he produced some time ago. The usual points were made: it is an opportunity for local Christians to have a chance to meet, share, get encouraged, inspired. It is intended for 'grass roots' people, not just the leaders. The American congress always goes to Chicago, but we move around, and the local context shapes the congress. Bill will take the background statement summary by Michael and give Paul an electronic copy for the web site.

**Action: Bill**

Can we involve South Wales? Yes: there are many issues surrounding Cardiff, Newport, Swansea, and the valleys. For example, there is the issue of people buying houses in the valleys but not really living in them. We need to build connections with people in these areas.

How many people are we aiming to attract to the congress? At present, the aim is for 300 people requiring accommodation, plus a good number of local people.

Another benefit of moving around is that the urban churches feel affirmed by the experience of JITC: people from all over the country came and say you are important, we want to learn from you.

Erica asked about the local offshoot of Soul in the City, 'Love Bristol', which is taking place in July this year. It would be good to link more closely with them. Lee and Paul have both initiated contact and will continue to build on it.

**Action: Lee & Paul**

Slavery is a politically sensitive issue. Over the weekend, it was reported as a major story in the Guardian that Liverpool has said sorry for the slave trade, but Bristol has not. The proposed name for the Broadmead extension, the 'Merchants Quarter', has now been dropped because of the historic link between Bristol merchants and the slave trade.

It was reported that Churches Together in Greater Bristol is struggling. Involvement with JITC might provide some encouragement and support for them.

What role does prayer play? Lee reported that 'Pray for Easton', a monthly intercession group, has started praying for JITC. Lee will ask other intercessory groups to pray for us.

**Action: Lee**

Emmanuel reported that, some eight months ago, some African prayer cells were praying for a large event to take place in Bristol. JITC is an answer to this prayer. Emmanuel spoke about the power of togetherness when we come together to pray and work, and when we bring the churches together and encourage them.

It was suggested that we seek to initiate a wave of prayer through the four nations. Perhaps we can get people to sign up on the web site? At the very least, we should put issues and prayer requests on the web site.

## **5 Membership of Executive**

The Executive Group is probably large enough but may need to have some co-options to make it more representative. All those who attended or expressed an interest in this meeting are invited to be involved in the sub-committees.

## 6 Sub-committees

There was nothing to report on the subject of sub-committees, beyond the fact that we need people to take part in them.

## 7 Associated Events

If we get someone like Jim Wallis, he could do the Centre for Youth Ministry annual lecture. Simon Stephens has started a series of lectures for young people, and would like to see some tie up. Is it possible to tie in a series of lectures in the theological colleges?

In Chicago, they have a short course for people who want to engage in urban mission, dipping in and out of the congress. We tried to do this in Leeds. We have no paid staff, so it is difficult to organise additional events like this unless someone volunteers to make it happen.

Erica reported that she hoped to have a representative from St Michael's Theological College Llandaff, who are keen to use the congress in some way.

Bishop Roger talked about Maurice Wood's daughter as a possible speaker.

Michael mentioned a minister from Toronto who is involved in a street rescue mission, who may do a workshop.

The CULF Report will be published on 22 May. This is not exactly a follow-up to 'Faith in the City', but it is hoped that it will have as great an impact as the earlier work did in its day. It will include a large section on training and youth ministry.

## 8 Finance

Patton reported that we had limited financial resources at present. But, it was pointed out, the Lord has always provided. Terry has been doing a wonderful job, but we need a larger fundraising committee.

Terry has written some 50 letters asking for support. So far, all the replies have been negative. Inclusiveness is a major issue with many grant-making trusts.

Roger Northcote, who used to work for the Tudor Trust, might be approached to help us.

## 9 Any Other Business

There was no other business reported.

Over lunch in the local Somali Restuarant, Andy Paterson shared his experience in Kensington Baptist Church and the current challenges for urban mission in the Easton Area of Bristol.