

Number 287
November 10th 2003

The WORD



Verse of the Word Matthew 25:35

for I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink

Got the Message?

There can't be many readers of The Word who now don't know what *Soul in the City* is about.

2 weeks of social action in London in July and August 2004, with teenagers working to make the local communities better places.

And as a practice you can also get involved with the local churches of Acton, Ealing or Northolt on 29th November as they make a NOISE and start various projects on that day.

Hopefully all TFG members see this as an important thing. Jesus teaches us to love our

neighbour, and a great way of doing that is to improve their environment.

But what about IN SCHOOL? What's the point of going off into the estates and town centres of London if, when we come to school, we couldn't care less about the state of the community?

In the past TFG has had 'clearing up worship' times around the school, when members have gone out with black sacks and picked up all the litter. Maybe we could do that again.

But better still, what about

improving the community before it even gets messy? One of the common complaints about Twyford at the moment is that it is full of people who push and shove and don't seem to care about others as we go about our business. What if we did care? What if we all stood back and let someone else go first through doorways, etc. maybe all TFG members do that already, so perhaps we need to think of other ways of improving life in the school for our neighbours. Have you got any ideas?

It has to be things that don't cost money.... or only cost as much as we can raise ourselves ... and the simpler the better.

It's also better if it's not something that others will say make us 'goody goodies' or crawlers.

Try to come up with some ideas this week....!

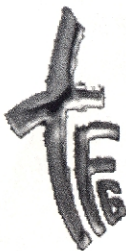
LOVE OFFERING

ON Thursday some of us pledged to pray for Mike P right through to *Soul in the City*. We also said we would have a collection to thank him and 29th Chapter for coming.

If you have anything to give (cheques payable to TFG) then let Geoff have it by Thursday of this week please.

WHAT would YOU do in your areas?





Bible Readings for this edition:

Read each one twice, on the first day read it and ask yourself these questions:

- 1] Is there a command to obey here?
- 2] Is there a promise from God to me here?
- 3] Is there an example to follow here?
- 4] Does this teach me anything about God or me?

On the second day ask God to speak through one verse especially and then try to MEMORISE that verse. We also give one of TFG's "Ten Verses" to learn too!

Reading one Matthew 25:31 - 46

Reading four Matthew 5: 43 - 48

Reading two James 1: 19 - 27

Reading five Psalm 1

Reading three James 2: 14 -26

TFG Memory verse 2: Acts 4:12



Things to Pray for:

Mike Pilavachi, who was unwell at the end of last week, that he fully recovers; also that he and the other leaders of *Soul in the City* are able to cope with all the pressures of the event

At present there are NO confirmed sites for Tent Cities next summer, pray that local councils and park authorities give permission soon

For Katie Lyle, recovering at home after major surgery. Pray that she does not get bored and that she makes speedy progress.

Things to thank God for:

Soul in the School week, and for the impact it has had on many

Success of half-term 24-7 Prayer week, and also the school Hockey trip!

TFG meets to pray Wednesdays @ 3:30pm. If you can't make it then the things we prayed for are posted on the TFG Message board at www.tfg.org.uk/message (then click MESSAGE again)

SEEK....the senior TFG Weekend 2004
 Last two weeks to book!!!
 Price rises after next Friday, 22nd November.

www.tfg.org.uk/sits

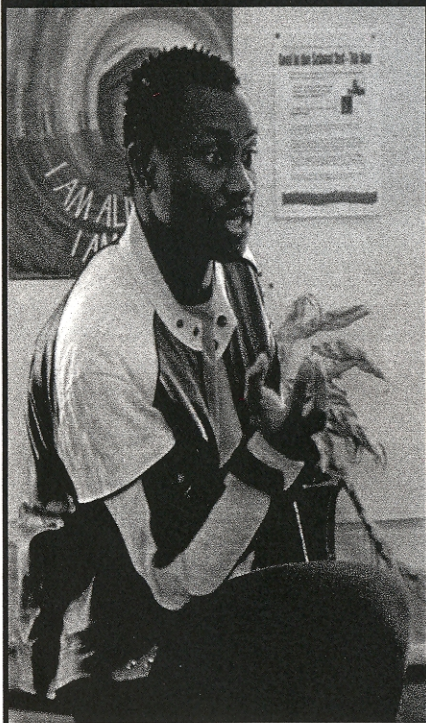
Plenty of pictures and reports from Soul in the School now on the TFG website

Go there today!

The second of our two Word logos is used this edition. Which one do you prefer? Votes to Geoff, and the winner will be announced next time.... you are only voting for the ideas, the winning entry will be enhanced by computer.

LOADSA JOKES SENT IN...but always space for more to
jokes@tfg.org.uk.

Also we want articles, cartoons, etc.



Mr Prince didn't like the sort of pop-rock sung at his church. Instead of leaving, he got into worship hip-hop stylee.

More Soul in the School pix on page 4, and the TFG website

What's the difference between a teacher and a train?
The teacher says 'spit out your gum', but the train says 'choo, choo, choo'! {by Emma}

What's the difference between a bank bond and a drummer?
- The bank bond will eventually mature and start to earn money.

What do you get if you drop a grand piano on a coal mine?
- A-flat minor.

What do you get when you drop a grand piano on an army barracks?
- A-flat major.

EVER WONDER...

...why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?
...why you don't ever see the headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"?
...why "abbreviated" is such a long word? [more of these next time]

what kind of money do fishermen make?
net profits!

what do you get if you cross a salmon, a bird's leg and a hand?
Birdsthigh fish fingers!

Angel in the changing room

BIBLE STUDY: 1 Samuel 2:30

"When I became a Christian, I worked with three others in one department in the company," writes ex-Muslim Farid (name changed). "We worked shifts, each person had their own locker where he could store his tools and clothes. At the end of the month, I put my wages in my locker. At the end of my shift, I forgot to take the money with me when I went home.

The following day, I discovered that someone had broken into my locker and stolen the money. My old self rose to the occasion: I wanted revenge! I suspected that one of my colleagues had stolen the money, so decided to break open their lockers and burn the contents. I grabbed a hammer, and prepared to strike – but suddenly felt as though an invisible hand grabbed my wrist, holding me back. Frightened, I sat down. What was wrong with me? Forgiveness, not revenge. Then I heard a gentle voice, full of sympathy and love: "Don't avenge yourself. Don't give in to Satan." I replied "But Lord, my wages are all that I have. Who will take care of my wife and child?" The Lord answered, "Think of what is written: trust in God, he will care for you". I replied, saying "Then please put out the flames of anger. Tell me what to do."

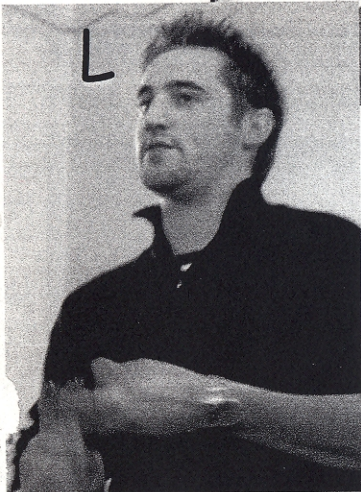
The Lord told me to write the following words on a piece of paper: "To my brother who opened my locker. I am sorry that I have nothing valuable to give you. If you need something particular, let me know. God will take care of it. I will not repair the broken lock, as proof that I mean what I say. I bless you with the peace of God filling your life, and the grace of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." I signed it "The brother who loves you despite what happened."

I went home full of joy to tell my wife about this great victory... Despite my relief and my wife's agreement, I couldn't sleep that night, tossing and turning until I finally got up to pray on the balcony. Just as I was about to go back indoors, someone threw a stone onto the balcony. Attached to the stone was a letter from another Christian whom I had not met for months for security reasons. The letter contained the same amount of money as my wages. I was amazed: how faithfully the Lord cares for me!

When I arrived in the office the next day, one of my colleagues was waiting for me, a religious Muslim. With a trembling voice, he said "I was the one who broke your locker open. I found your letter yesterday, and was very moved. I have already spent the money I stole on my sick children. I will repay you as soon as I can." I told him, "The money is yours. I don't need it any more; God has already replaced my loss." It was almost impossible for him, but he finally accepted. "Where did you learn to act like that?" he asked. "I'll tell you some other time," I replied, hoping that he would forget. I had no idea how he would react if I told him about my conversion. He didn't let up, though, so I finally gave him a New Testament, which he took with shaking hands. One month later, he was ready to follow Jesus. How true are Jesus' words: 'People will see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven!'

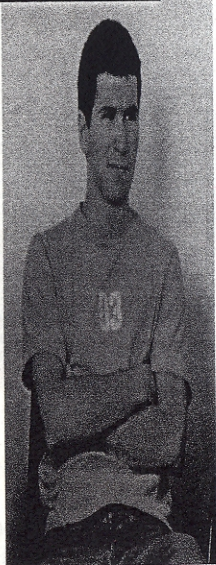
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