

Newsletter

Welcome! to the summer edition of our Newsletter, where we will try to make up for the lack of summer weather by giving you some heart warming stories instead!

Baptisms

Jesus said *...go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*

You may recall the story of Barbara coming to faith in the Easter edition of our Newsletter. Many thanks to those of you who prayed for her as she prepared for her baptism on May 13. It was a wonderful occasion! God is transforming Barbara from the inside out, and blessing the rest of us in the process! She is experiencing the inner joy of the Lord which has helped her grow in confidence, discover gifts, enabled her true personality to emerge, and even changed her outward appearance!

Barbara last September



Barbara after her Baptism



We have also had the privilege of attending the baptism of a beautiful little girl born to a young woman who has attended the Bus over many years. This new little life has brought new life to the mother, too, who is getting her life back on track. She attributes much of her change to the support and encouragement of Church on the Bus.



Scarborough Trip

The Matlock crew had a lovely day in Scarborough. Sixteen people came, many of whom enjoyed a fish and chips lunch together. The weather was OK, but the fellowship was warm!

Ready, Steady.... START !!



We at Matlock thought it was time to push the boat out a bit and offer our users the opportunity to explore what it means to be a Christian, and to find out how you can become one. After all, they know where we stand and some of them regularly stop to our end of session Prayer -Time. So we put out some flyers and got a few bites. So we launched a six week course called START (by CPAS). We held the sessions on the bus at the end of our normal Drop-In time on Tuesday. We had seven different people coming but three were regulars. The material was excellent and hit the spot. We got good participation and the DVD was very helpful. We made sure it was all fast moving and never went much over the hour mark. The members had their own booklets to take away and use for thought. These were not too wordy. In fact, on the contrary, they were quite pictorial. We did not get Bibles out because we felt our attenders would be unsure of how to find their way around them. We finished the course last week (June 19) and asked folk where they felt they were now, as regards to what they believed, and if they wanted to continue or start their life journey with Jesus. When we pointed out the steps that had to be taken to get going, and the prayer of commitment, one member immediately said, 'Well, let's say it, that's what I say!!' Wow, thought I!! So we did. What a great end to the course and a great beginning for our new brother.

Keith Hodgson

Joint Leader with Rob Stoba

Spiritual Surgery

In our Easter Newsletter we referred to starting a 'spiritual surgery' each evening on the Bus from 7.30-8pm, to offer the opportunity for people to talk in more depth about their concerns, receive prayer, and hear the Gospel. This may have seemed a small step forward but it has taken off in a big way!!

Last week we heard the testimony of a young man who first came to the Bus last autumn time in a state of distress, a lost soul. He spoke of the impact it had on him when Alan drew alongside him. It was the first time he could remember anyone showing him any kindness. Alan talked to him about God, telling him how much God loved him, and this changed his whole attitude. He has developed a strong faith, attends a local church and wants to share what he has found with others. Praise God!

This week we witnessed one girl minister to another, having been profoundly affected by prayer ministry herself the week before. Since then she has felt God has been intervening in her life to get her off drugs. During the spiritual surgery she initiated prayer for another girl who was really upset with her current situation, and we sat back in awe, watching God at work! Truly wonderful!

How I became involved...

I spotted the advertisement in the newsletter asking for a volunteer to collect and help sort the clothing etc which is left at St Thomas' for the Bus. After doing the job for a couple of weeks the very friendly crew invited me to stay and help, which I gladly did. Captain Alan asked me if I would come on Thursday evenings to help the team out. I have to admit that I have enjoyed working on the Bus ever since, serving the customers with tea, coffee, hot chocolate and the homemade sandwiches provided by our volunteers and also enjoying a good natter.

If you get a strong feeling you want to do something, then you should do it! Help is always needed on the Bus in all kinds of ways; especially drivers. It would be nice to have some young drivers as well to make up the team - a special license is not required to drive the Bus.

Joe Pateman

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