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# Hello & welcome to MAGAZIN



New things are happening, spring is here and there is a sense of 'freshness' in the air. God seems to be doing new things in the country as well. Vital Christian ministries are appearing - Street Pastors, Healing on the Streets, Food Banks, unique regional summer Christian celebration festivals (such as 'Creation Fest' in Cornwall and 'Big Church Day Out' in Sussex) have all emerged in the last few years. Church leaders I have talked to regularly report an increase in evangelism and 'supernatural encounters' that lead to faith. Even within our young network of Filling Station meetings we see regular healings, transformations and people coming to faith for the first time.

As we are happy to report in this issue of Goodlife magazine, first hand experiences of the presence and power of God seem increasingly common! This year we are working to set up as many places as possible where people can 'meet God'. There are the 54 monthly Filling Station meetings. We are also hosting two renewal weekends in Newbury & Stirling in 2014. The first in the South will be on June 14/15th and the second, in Scotland on October 4th/5th. We hope you will sign up and join us at these two weekends of encouragement. We are really excited about being involved with the 'new things' that God is doing!

**Richard Fothergill Director – The Filling Station** 

#### INFO SHEET

STARTED November 2013. 42nd meeting in the network.

MEETS Last Friday of each month. 7.30pm start. **VENUE** The Baptist Hall, Nelson Drive, Westward Ho! Devon. EX39 1LQ.

**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE** 55 guests.

ADMINISTRATOR Jess Marchbank. 07769895853 jesskrc@hotmail.com

# Latest News

#### **NORTHERN DIRECTOR APPOINTED**



A fourth Director has been appointed to the Filling Station team. He is Brian Streeter, and will be the Regional Director for the North of England. He lives in Windermere and will cover all the Filling Stations currently in operation in the North. Brian comes from an IT background and was ordained into the Church of England in 2007. Like the other Regional Directors, he will be networking, supporting, guiding and encouraging the Filling Station host teams in his area. If you would like to get in contact with Brian, e-mail him on:

brian@thefillingstation.org.uk

#### **BISHOP OF LONDON'S ENDORSEMENT**



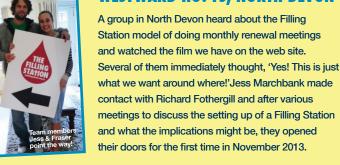
#### **SHROPSHIRE** ON THE FS MAP

From a standing start, the county of Shropshire has leapt onto the Filling Station network! Three meetings have opened in the last few weeks and local Christians are excited by what is happening. The new meetings are to be found in Craven Arms, Leebotwood village, South of Shrewsbury, and in the Clun Valley, at Newcastle-on-Clun. Full details can be found on the Filling Station website. The Anglican Bishop of Ludlow, whose area covers all these meetings, said he was; 'delighted that these new Filling Station meetings are setting up. They bring new & fresh opportunities to worship God to our area.'

# "Down your way!"

In each issue of Goodlife we will be featuring a particular Filling Station meeting. This Issue:

#### **WESTWARD HO! FS, NORTH DEVON**



FRENCH FS **WEBSITE SET UP** 

The expanding number of Filling Station meetings in France has led to the establishment of a wholly dedicated French FS website. The site, to be found at: thefillingstationfrance.com covers everything to do with the meetings taking place in that country. The new website coincides with the opening of the 4th French meeting at La Roche-sur-Yon in central Vendée. Further enquiries about starting new meetings in France are made on a regular basis and the network will continue to expand.

# 2,500+ **ATTEND**



The 54 Filling Station meetings now in operation see over 2,500 people attend each month. The average number attending a Filling Station gathering is 56, with numbers ranging from 35 to over 200 people. An increasing number of local clergy and church leaders 'use' the Filling Station meetings for their own personal encouragement and as a worship opportunity. As one West Country clergyman said to the FS team, 'I really enjoy having one place in the month where I can worship God freely, receive prayer ministry if needed & be inspired by helpful teaching. It's good not to feel I have to run the event!

# FILLING STATION **ON PREMIER**



The Filling Station Director, Richard Fothergill, was interviewed for an hour on Premier Radio's morning show on January 23rd. One of their resident presenters, Lisa Mainwaring, interviewed Richard about the network of Filling Station meetings. Listeners called in with questions towards the end of the interview. A full recording of the broadcast can be heard on the news pages/archive of the Filling Station website thefillingstation.org.uk

The first night was great hit! Over 65 people attended and many said it was something that they had been 'praying would happen in the area for some while!' The team use a newly built hall attached to a local Baptist church and really went to town on preparing fine food and refreshments for their opening event. Guests were seen re-loading with food throughout the evening! Richard Fothergill, Director of the Filling Station, gave the first talk on the 'Presence of God with us - here & now!' High quality worship was provided by their resident band, ably led by Fraser Marchbank on guitar. A moving and very 'real' testimony was shared by a young couple about their journey to adopting a baby. Prayer ministry

was offered at the end and many people made use of this opportunity even though it was clear that some of the guests had not necessarily seen this way of praying done before. The host team are really thrilled they can offer this form of open 'celebration' meeting each month and have booked up a line of capable, anointed speakers into 2014. So, if you are ever down in N.Devon over the summer on holiday, having a weekend break or there for some surfing, why not go along and join the joyful group running the Filling Station in Westward Ho!

# RENEWAL CONFERENCES PLANNED - NEWBURY &

Two Renewal weekend conferences are planned for 2014. The first will be held at the Newbury Racecourse on June 14th/15th. The second, a repeat of the successful Scottish Conference held in 2013, will take place in Stirling over the weekend of Oct 4th/5th. High quality teaching, worship, prayer ministry and seminars will be on offer. The teaching input at Newbury will be given by; Simon Ponsonby, David MacInnes, Rachel Hickson and others. FS leadership teams are strongly encouraged to attend if they can. Guests can attend both events for the weekend, the day or by the evening. All bookings can be made online via the website.

#### **FS HELPING** WITH THE FLOODS

The winter flooding, which turned the Somerset Levels into an inland sea. caused devastation to many communities. In a small way, the Filling Station network tried to assist. Rev Keith Powell, who is on the leadership team of Middlezoy Filling Station and one of our regular meeting speakers, has been particularly involved. His parish covers the villages of Othery, Westernzoyland and Borrowbridge on the rivers Parrett & Cary. He and the local FS members have been helping with the flood relief effort. Other Filling Station meetings have also been helping. For example, the recently opened Isle of Wight Filling Station, gave half the money they collected at their first gathering to a Somerset flood relief charity. The North Norfolk FS has also given financially via Keith and the Middlezov team.

#### WTC LINKS UP WITH THE **FILLING STATION**

The respected Westminster Theological Centre (WTC) is linking up with the Filling Station network to offer high caliber theological education and training. Every FS meeting has details of courses offered by WTC at their nationwide 'hub' locations, where part-time diploma and degree level theology courses can be undertaken. Dr Lucy Peppiatt, Principal of WTC said she was, 'delighted to be able to join up with the Filling Station, as we share an equal interest in applied theology that honours God and presents the gospel of salvation in an effective fashion.' WTC courses will be starting in the autumn of 2014 and all those wanting to 'go deeper' in their Christian faith should consider this excellent educational opportunity. See the WTC website for further details: wtctheology.org.uk









#### **WHAT IS THE** FILLING STATION?

The Filling Station is a contemporary vehicle for bringing Christian renewal and evangelism to the UK.

Our Biblical mandate is from Psalm 114: 8 'Who turned the rock into a pool, the hard rock into springs of water.' We see the 'pools' described here as places of deep spiritual refreshment for the existing church bringing water into the hard dry areas. The 'hard rock into springs' represents the new spiritual life that occurs through evangelism.

#### **HOW DOES THE FILLING STATION WORK?**

Using monthly mid-week evening 'celebration' meetings held in non-church venues we have seen Christian communities grow in depth and numbers where a Filling Station has been opened. We offer high quality speakers and teachers, contemporary worship and powerful. accessible prayer ministry. Within meetings personal testimonies, led group prayer and networking also takes place.

Our mid-week meetings are designed to be overtly spiritual but presented in a manner that those outside the existing church would feel comfortable in experiencing. Meetings are held on a monthly basis and aim to be short, sharp and focused in character. We find many people meet God through them and their faith is built up.

The Filling Station is not a new independent church movement, rather a model of how existing churches can work together to bring new spiritual life to their areas and in the process bring many people to faith in Jesus Christ. One of our fundamental principles is to promote Christian unity. As it says in Psalm 133: 1 'How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! ... for there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life for evermore.'

The Filling Station Trust has been set up to facilitate any local group wishing to start a meeting in their part of the world. We can provide human and practical resources, guidance on how to establish a successful local meeting, liaison with your local clergy, background prayer support, prayer ministry training workshops plus tried & tested speakers for meetings.

# **Testimonies**



#### New faith in Lossiemouth.

At one of the Lossiemouth Filling Station meetings a young man visiting from Arbroath, heard the message of the speaker and felt convicted that he wasn't taking God in any way seriously enough and that he needed to 'say sorry' for what he had done wrong. With a couple of team members he prayed a prayer of commitment that night. He reported back some days later that he sensed 'everything has changed!' and he now knows God is with him in a close, genuine way. He is keen to bring his friends to other Filling Station meetings and is pleased to hear new groups will be hosting these monthly gatherings in Cupar, Fife and Crieff,

#### Divine connections.

The Vicar of Hermitage in Berkshire, the Rev Rita Ball, was driving home one evening when she noticed her car was running out of petrol. Pulling into one of the villages in the area, which she thought had a petrol station; she was dismayed to discover it had closed down. She spoke out loud, 'what this area needs is a Filling Station!'

The next morning, a Sunday, she received an

e-mail from a new resident to the area, a Mrs Gilly Hudson, who had found Rita's address on the church website and wanted to get in contact with her Although they had never met, Gilly asked if the churches in the area had ever heard of, or thought of holding one of these new 'Filling Station meetings?' Rita said she felt it was a bolt from the blue - God was 'nudging' her to think about a Filling Station! These two individuals met, talked and prayed, and the end result is the Downland Filling Station meeting in Hampstead Norreys village, which opened it's doors in spring 2013.





# Michele Neal. Isle of Wight Filling Station.

'Five days before Christmas, I fell over and landed heavily on my left side. I went to the hospital and was told that I had two fractured ribs that would heal in a few weeks on their own, but had also damaged my shoulder, known as a rotator cuff injury. I was in immense pain and had very limited movement. I was told that this type of injury is poor at 'self-healing' and I could take a long time to regain movement with physiotherapy. The pain can linger for even longer. I had regular medication for the pain.

I'm an author, so even sitting at my desk trying to type was difficult and gave me a lot of discomfort. Slowly, I started to gain some movement in my left arm, but certain movements just would not happen in my shoulder. At the Filling Station meeting I asked

> a lady if she would pray for me. I showed her what movements I could do (not much!). She prayed with me and about 10 minutes afterwards I decided to 'test' the shoulder to see if there was any improvement. I put my arm across my front with my hand on the opposite shoulder and then attempted to lift my arm up from the elbow into a horizontal position. Miraculously it rose up! I had been unable to do this for seven weeks despite having tried daily to make it move. My shoulder is still a bit stiff BUT my arm now moves upwards, which for me is a huge healing! I thank the Lord for this and for the faithfulness of the lady who prayed for me. We are now really looking forward to all the monthly Filling Station meetings here on the island!'

Have you ever thought about what serving Jesus looks like in another country? And not just for a short trip either, how about a whole year? Megan Stanfield, working with LatinLink, takes us into the heart of life serving God in Bogota, Colombia.

the tolerance zone of Bogotá. What's more, is that when you get a little closer, you begin to realise that many of these women are, in fact, not women at all. What's even more disturbing is that in these streets, strewn with used condoms, stray dogs and men either sleeping rough or sifting through piles of rubbish, a new generation of children are living, growing and learning.

As a third year language student at Leeds University, I wanted to do something more involved than studying at a foreign university during my year abroad, I wanted to serve God in a developing-world context. I wanted to use my course to serve where I could and I also wanted to learn from communities that could teach me so much more than just their language. So, I got in touch with Latin Link, a Christian mission organisation and their "Stride" programme brought me here to Bogotá, the capital of Colombia

Colombia is an incredibly diverse country, with everything from Caribbean beaches to Amazonian jungles. Its capital is equally diverse, with great contrasts between rich, poor, old and new. These differences are very distinct. While there are many wealthy, modern and clean areas of the city, you only have to take a short bus journey to find yourself surrounded by poverty. the homeless, and those without necessary access to education or even basic electricity in their homes Here in Bogotá, as I do every day, it's possible to travel between worlds in a matter of minutes.

A typical day for me here means a very squashed journey on the bustling, crowded Transmilenio (Bogotá's



public transport system) from the north of the city where I live in a lovely house with a wonderful family; two girls of around my age, their parents and grandmother, to the Tolerance Zone near the city centre, locally known as "El Barrio Santa Fe". This is the one area of the city where prostitutes work freely on the streets, there are many drugs in circulation, and, as the name "tolerance zone" suggests; in this neighbourhood it is all tolerated.

In the heart of this neighbourhood, is a project named Hogar AmaneSer, where I have been working for around six months now. This is a supplementary education programme, where the children of the area come to receive help with homework, a nutritious meal, and the care and support that in many cases they lack at home. These are the children of prostitutes, gang members and the incarcerated. Each family living in the area faces their own daily struggles; single mothers with eight children living with no electricity or running water, young children left alone to look after younger siblings while their mothers work through the night and even into the morning, meaning the children are unable to attend the little schooling they have access to. Violence, fighting, horrific language, and sexual references coming from the youngest of the children are all part of a day's work at Hogar AmaneSer and the work can be extremely challenging. However, with the knowledge of some of the backgrounds and the current situation of the children, it's easy to see why it is so. A large aim of Hogar AmanSer is to teach the children about God and his love for them, to encourage them that they can have a relationship with Jesus and that they don't have to fall in step with the norms of what is going on around them.

Santa Fe is filled with sights, smells and sounds that you would experience nowhere in Britain. It is quite a dangerous place, especially for a foreigner but so far, aside from harmless comments. I have experienced very few difficulties in walking around the neighbourhood. I see the familiar faces of the children and parents that I

know and have begun to feel that, although I would love to see an end to many of the things that happen here, I really love this neighbourhood and its people.

Outside of Hogar AmaneSer, my typical day includes giving some English lessons, bible studies with friends from a student organisation, UCU; Colombian's student Christian union, spending time with my Colombian family and my church, it's youth group and other church events and activities. Much like the city itself, the churches within it, vary greatly. The church that I am now part of, apart from the language is not dissimilar to many lively, family-filled churches in the UK.

I was diagnosed a year ago with a brain tumour, and for me personally I have learnt to trust completely that God has every little detail of my life in his hands. My time here in Colombia has confirmed this again to me. I have seen the way God has been preparing me for what he would bring me. I have seen the way he has so intricately planned and placed so many details, people and experiences in my life. Through my challenging time here in Colombia, my faith has been tested and strengthened in ways I would never have imagined it could or would have been. The main thing

that has come from all this, for me, is the fundamental knowledge that God has everything in control; our daily lives, our problems, the tolerance zone of Bogotá he has the whole world in his hands!

"He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him. For he will rescue you from every trap and protect you from deadly disease. He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings. His faithful promises are your armour and protection."



# **SOUTHERN ENGLAND** RENEW WEEKEND

**NEWBURY** 14 - 15 JUNE 2014



#### OUT OF FUEL?

Top up spiritually at the Filling Station Renewal Weekend. Two days of inspiration, worship and transformation. Leading teachers and speakers will be at the main sessions and workshop seminars. High quality worship led by Filling Station worship teams. Prayer ministry available all weekend.

#### SATURDAY 14TH JUNE 9.30AM - 9.30PM

SATURDAY MORNING: Richard Fothergill (Director of the Filling Station) **DURING THE DAY: Seminars** SATURDAY EVENING: Simon Ponsonby (Pastor of Theology, St Aldate's Oxford)

SUNDAY 15TH JUNE 10.00AM - 9.30PM

SUNDAY MORNING: David MacInnes (Canon of Oxford Cathedral) **DURING THE DAY: Seminars** 

SUNDAY EVENING: Rachel Hickson (Heartery for Change Ministries)

#### COST

£56 Full Weekend £30 Day Delegate £15 Evening Session

Newbury Race Course, Newbury, West Berkshire,

Visit our website for venue map and further details

Event enquiries Tel: 077 1270 0720



**BOOK ONLINE** the filling station.org.uk YOU STOP DREAMING **ABOUT BECOMING A PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLER AND START DREAMING ABOUT A SON** WHO MIGHT.



WHEN SITTING BECOME ENVIOUS OF THEIR HANGING BASKETS.



POP **EXACTLY** 



**BEFORE GOING OUT ANYWHERE, YOU ALWAYS ASK, "WHAT IS THE** 

**YOU OWN A LAWNMOWER** AND A SHED.





SIGNS OF MIDDLE AGE



WHEN YOU BEND DOWN TO TIE YOUR SHOE LACE YOU THINK, 'WHAT ELSE CAN I BE DOING WHILST I'M DOWN HERE?'

WHEN GETTING YOUR HAIR CUT THE **BARBER AUTOMATICALLY CLIPS YOUR** NOSE & EAR HAIR WITHOUT EVEN ASKING.







ALL OF A SUDDEN THE **PRIME MINISTER, DAVID CAMERON IS NOT 47. HE IS ONLY 47!** 





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To find out more contact Nick on: nick.crawlev@bluevonder.co.uk





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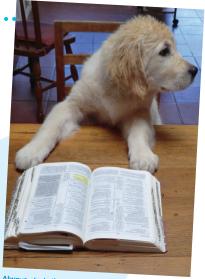
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# Theology of Worship

Worship is a living, breathing and integral part of our Christian life. It evolves, moves and changes all the time. So how do we move with it while keeping the heart focused on Him? Two young worship leaders offer us some thoughts on the nuts and bolts of Worshipping.



ays study the Bible



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Worship is not a difficult topic for us to comprehend, as humans we are all made with the desire to worship. For many of us we choose to manifest this desire to worship in the admiration of people, possessions or worship of even ourselves. However, as Christians, we are called to a much higher form of worship where a compelling vision of the almighty God requires that we enter the throne room with thanksgiving and praise that therefore moves us beyond the frivolous distractions of the world we live in. There are Biblical principles to be aware of when we worship and basic, yet key, questions to be asking. I'll focus on the Who, How and Why of Worship. "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" 2 Corinthians 4:18

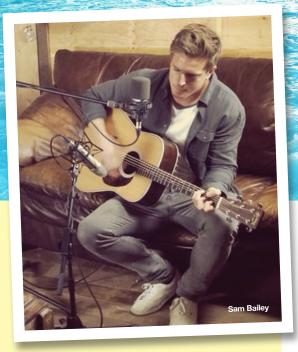
#### Whom do we worship?

This may seem like a straightforward question but I believe that it is fundamental to grasp, because it seems pointless to worship God if we have no idea of who He is and what He's like. We must worship as a response to a discovery of who God is and what He's done for us! God is Lord (Genesis 2:4 etc). God is love (1 John 4:8). God is Just (2 Thessalonians 1:6). God is Holy (Psalm 99:9). God is Spirit (John 4:24). The Spirit is the Truth (1 John 5:6). Jesus is the Way, Truth and Life (John 14:6). Jesus is the Light of the World (John 8:12) and 1 Corinthians 1:9 says, Jesus is The Lord. This is but a taste of the circular character of the Almighty God we worship, found in just 9 verses scattered across the Bible. There is so much more to discover.

This merciful God, whose character is as complex as it is perfect, also fabricated the idea to sacrifice Himself for the atonement of our sins to give us a completely undeserved chance to live in freedom and fullness in Christ Jesus. What more reason do we have to Worship? "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of Gods mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God- this is your true and proper worship." Romans 12:1. Jesus surrendered all for you and we are called to do the same for Him.

"We are not escaping the world when we worship..... in fact we are encountering the world on a deeper level." I love this perspective that author Richard Foster takes, he hits the nail on the head; we were

born to worship. Too often we box worship into a twenty-five minute set during a church service and somewhere along the line we've forgotten



Sam is currently based at Soul Survivor where he has been leading worship for the past two years. He travels on and off for up to half the year with Mike Pilavachi serving and leading at different festivals and church events around the world. In between the trips, he is based at the local church called Soul Survivor Watford. You'll normally find him in a coffee shop, behind a piano or watching a chick flick.

#### SAM'S QUICK FIRE QUESTIONS

Favourite film: Cool Runnings

Favourite book: Anything by John Grisham

Favourite food: Italian

Favourite song: Clocks (Coldplay)

Favourite holiday destination: Greek Island

#### TOM'S QUICK FIRE QUESTIONS

Favourite film: The Bourne series Favourite book: The Bible of course!

Favourite food: Lasagne

Favourite song: At the moment I am loving a song called "burning bridges" by one republic. My "favourite song" changes a lot! Favourite holiday destination: Lake Taupo in NZ. Where I have always had family holidays growing up.

Tom is working as the associate worship pastor at "The Street City Church" in Wellington, New Zealand. He spent 2 years at Soul Survivor in the UK serving the worship team there before coming back to NZ. Tom has a real passion and heart to see people from all different denominations, ages, churches and backgrounds connect with God through worship. In his spare time he loves to surf and spend time with friends and family and playing any other sport finished off by a good substantial amount of food!

that worshiping our King is the main event. Worship seems to dominate many areas of modern culture. We worship money, consumerism, and our constant need of more. Surely then, our prayer must be that the worship of our King has to get back to the front line of culture and we once again become a people of God distinguished by nothing more than His pure presence

#### How do we worship?

Because of this it is 'normal' to give everything to God and thank Him for his dealings with us. This is a whole life attitude! So, if this is how we worship, then why do we spend so much time and effort focusing on singing on Sundays? If we look at the Bible we see music and singing is important; it is sprinkled throughout both Old and New Testaments (Exodus 15:1-21, 2 Samuel 22:2-5, Luke 1:46-55 to name three). There is an entire book dedicated to songs for singing to the Lord, one of which tells us to "Sina to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim His salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all people. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise." (Psalm 96:1-4). Also, beyond the theological reasons, music is one of the greatest art forms in this world which can both draw people together, move people, and in the words of Victor Hugo "Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent." Therefore, those of you reading who are musicians in the Church, use the talents that God has given you, develop your gifts and strive to be the best you can be all for the glory of God and to aid the worship of His Church.

"Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy" -Ludwig van Beethoven

#### Why we worship?

Have you ever wondered what worship will be like in heaven? Think about that moment when we enter into the throne room of eternity. There will be countless millions of redeemed people surrounding a throne that is occupied by a lamb, looking as if he was slain - Jesus, the center of worship, Jesus the one who will remind us for all eternity of the cost of our salvation. He won't remind us in a way that makes us feel guilty or that we owe him something, but remind us so that we will worship Him more! What will that worship be like? In that case, how should that inspire and equip us in our expressions of worship here on earth?

Firstly, worship will be endless. There will be no clock watching, no need to stop and go to the bathroom, or get some food. Worship will continue until all of the adoration and praise that is in our heart has been expressed. We will pour out our worship to Jesus without end. How does that work here when we do get hungry and tired and need to go to the bathroom? We make the most of every opportunity to fully pour out our praise so that there is nothing left. So why not practice that here on earth?

Next, we read in Revelation that worship in heaven will be loud. It tells us that the multitudes cry out in a loud voice that sounded like the roar of rushing waters and loud peals of thunder. That is loud. Loud means that worship is without restraint. Loud means that you are holding nothing back and that there is nothing to hold you back. No fear of man, no guilt of sin and no sensitive ear drums. Loud means complete engagement. When you yell, you shout you totally let it rip; a shout comes from the depth of who you are, right from your guts. It is everything you have.

I'm not saying lets tell all our sound techs to turn up the volume another twenty decibels but let's sing with everything we have.

God is not an insecure God that needs us to sing to him every day and tell him how much we love Him and adore Him. However, we have been created for God so let's make



every part of our lives for Him. Colossians 1 verses 16-17 says- "For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." All things have been created FOR HIM.

For me I find that the more I try to discover more about my creator and Saviour it leaves me in wonder and in awe of God and often turns into worship. We are never going to be able to fully understand everything about God here on earth, so let's turn those questions and mysteries into praise and adoration.

Heavenly worship will be united. People from every tribe and language, people and nations will come together with one heart and one mind and one voice. We will be utterly united because we will have a crystal clear view of Jesus. You see, it is the revelation of Jesus Christ that unites us. When that day comes we will see him as he is, full of glory and we will get it, just how amazing he really is and that will throw us to our knees in worship.

United worship today comes not because we grit our teeth and try to get along so that we can celebrate Jesus. United worship comes when we receive a powerful overwhelming revelation of Jesus Christ. Such a revelation explodes in our hearts and minds and overcomes our differences, either perceived or real because we realise that they fade into insignificance in the light of His glory. We also see the created differences we have as part of His glory and so celebrate the fact that others are different to us. Then in a way that can only happen in the light of the one who created all, we unite and with one voice, one focus and one love, we worship!

There is a story in the bible that I love, that shows the power of 'lifting your voice' to

God. In Acts 16 verses 25-26 when Paul and Silas were in prison: "About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose." As horrible as that must have been for them to be in prison, I love the picture that it paints for us of the power of singing and praying to God. When they sang to God the foundations moved and EVERYONE'S chains came loose! There is power in the name that we are lifting up in our worship when we sing praises to Him.

Heavenly worship is life giving healing worship. Imagine what it will be like for the lamb to wipe away every tear and to lead eternal worshippers to springs of living water. To drink that water and to never hunger or thirst, be sick, sad or sore. In heaven this is the promise, the promise of complete wholeness. There is a touch of heaven on earth when we worship. God does more than we dare ask or imagine in us when we worship Him. Sickness can be healed, sorrow overtaken by joy and the hunger and thirst of our soul for a close encounter of God happens in power. When we worship we often sing songs that talk about us opening up our lives and giving everything we have to God. Just think, if every one of us really meant every lyric that we sang and we were always open to the Holy Spirit's ability to change and mold us to be more like Jesus. Let's imagine what worship can be.

How does this happen? I believe that worship has the a unique way of carrying eternal truths and engaging with a huge spiritual hunger in the hearts of God's children, whether they 'believe' in Him or not. We see many forms of art shaping the world we live in today, whether in the form of music, books and films. We love to get taken into different worlds of adventure and romance; I know I do! It struck me when writing this that this is perhaps why the C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien books and films have been so successful. They seem to carry eternal truths in creative and authentic ways that feed our souls and meet our spiritual hunger. Our prayer must be that similarly, worship gets back into culture and shapes its destiny. Mathew 5 v 13-16 reminds us of our role: "You are the light of the world.....let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven".

When we engage with the Spirit of God in worship another phenomena occurs, our worship becomes evangelistic. I

so believe that true worship prepares the perfect platform for wholehearted evangelism. How could you worship the King of kings without being driven out to bring more in? The Bible says 'He inhabits the praises of His people,' so the Spirit is actively there when we express our worship. If you are not a Christian yet and you walk into that environment the first thing you will experience is the reality that God is good - and that you are probably not! Sin is revealed and repentance follows. I have seen people 'fall' into the church through anointed, Spirit-filled sung worship.

I never forget going to a U2 gig when I was a kid with my dad and my brother. They played the classics and the crowds were rocking away with every beat hit, melody sung and note played. About half way through their set when lingering between songs, Bono came up to the mic and said something I would never forget. He whispered strongly: "Can you feel it? The Lord is here". I couldn't believe it; Bono was bringing the King onto the front line of culture. It's true! You couldn't explain it but there was a huge sense of God's love and power all across that 80'000 seated stadium. I looked across to my dad only to see him up in the heavens worshiping! Something in that moment got my heart going. God's spirit was at work even at a U2 gig! It was there that I realised that the presence of God has this ability to carry with it the most amazing evangelistic element we have to learn to grow in. Bono seemed to grasp it. Engaging with the spiritual hunger of a packed out stadium was simple. You welcome God's spirit in a unique way. We have to grasp this. God is longing to move and break into our increasingly secularised world in creative and powerful ways. Remember, He's 'on the move'. In that U2 gig, God's presence moved and everything changed in an instant. With His presence comes His mind-blowing grace. That same grace is longing to break out.

My heart is for worship that becomes so infectious that it draws people into a newness of life that no other 'god' can compete with. Worship full of creativity that points to The Lord of lords. That introduces non-believers and reintroduces believers again and again to the Saviour's presence. Hove how A W Tozer puts it: "It's always true that an encounter with the Lord brings wonderment and awe". I so believe more and more we will be unlocked in His kingdom as we step into this creative, authentic and culture shaping worship.

# 

Jane Plackett grew up in Cornwall, and now lives in the East Midlands where she's getting ready for ordination and dreaming big dreams about equipping a generation of young men & women with a new future through the gospel and practical apprenticeships by setting up 'The Ruach Trust' earlier this year. She loves cheese, being by the sea, and miniature dachshunds.



# How do we keep ourselves real in a world of ever increasing online activity?

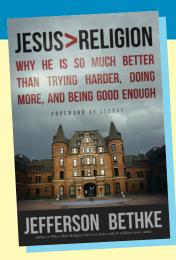
"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity"

We're a people obsessed with the pursuit of truth – we love documentaries, we love films that are 'based on a true story' no matter how tenuous the link may be. The 'Big Brother' craze captured the nation a decade ago, and scripted reality shows now dominate our viewing. We love watching people, we love a story, we love sharing other people's lives and we love to have a glimpse of truth.

Those of us born between the late 1970's and early 1990's are known as 'generation Y'. For those of us of these eras, adversity is a tricky thing for us. We are the social media generation, and have generally mastered the portrayal of our lives via the Internet to the wider world. We love telling our story by posting photos of our foreign travel, our overseas "mission" trips, suppers with friends, and statuses that share the highlights of our lives. All looks good from the outside.

Universally agreed 'netiquette' demands that our public Facebook, TXT, Twitter, & Instagram feeds (and they are public!) are generally speaking not the place for broadcasting our weaknesses, struggles and trials.

The problem with these snapshots of our lives is that it's not the whole reality. I wonder if we're becoming less and less able to deal with the realities that are our lives, and the lives of our friends which are messy and painful. Sometimes we need to laugh with each other, cry with each other, or just be hugged. Being there for another has to extend beyond an online exchange of words. We are whole people: physical, emotional and spiritual.



# Jesus > Religion

On 10th January 2012, Jefferson Bethke did what no one has done before; he got something Christian to go viral. With seven million views in the first two days and the YouTube counter now approaching the 27 million mark, it is safe to say 'Why I hate religion, but love Jesus', struck a chord with many people.

On the back of his success he has released this book, Jesus > Religion, to expand on the message behind the four minute three second viral explosion. Like the video, it will definitely

appeal to a younger Church audience, where religion is often used as a dirty word, but fear not he is not on a rampage against the Church. Well at least not the church that has a genuine faith in Jesus. Just like the video, he does not hold back in attacking religion, if by religion we understand, "what one must do, or behave like, in order to gain right standing with God" (p.27). It's a 200 page assault on self-righteousness and 'man-made' religion.

This book has provided him with the platform to explain and expand on concepts such as religion that can often be misconstrued in a short video that was never meant to go viral. But it did. It went viral because his spoken word gave a voice to a commonly held view that was itching to get out. It is through Jesus, not our own efforts that we can stand without a blemish before the Father. It is an attack on superficiality and hypocrisy that abounds within our Church institutions. It is a call to recognise our utter weakness, brokenness and our need for a Saviour.

Don't read this book if you are looking for a scholarly theological piece. Jeff is not that type of theologian and he happily admits the fact. Those who have gathered enough Christian festival wristbands to make some rather unattractive bunting won't find too much new here. Jeff is a Christian: who messes up.

who struggles, who gets frustrated, but most importantly who loves Jesus and is honest about everything. He lays his life bare; that is this book's selling point. There is barely a topic Jeff doesn't engage with from a personal perspective, as a disciple of Jesus. However, there is also barely a page in the entire book that does not convey God's relentless pursuit of us.

It's probably true some of the Americanisms will be lost in translation but it hardly diminishes the overall message of God's abounding love and grace. Jeff doesn't hide from any big topics; homosexuality, depression, divorce and personal suffering all feature. However, they aren't approached as topics to debate or arguments to be won. They are real and raw accounts of someone wrestling with them, measuring them up against the height, depth and length of God's love.

I would highly recommend this book for anyone, especially anyone disillusioned with the 'official' Church but not wanting to give up on it just yet. It is targeted at a younger audience but I don't think there is anyone on this planet that understands God's grace enough to not need to hear it humbly proclaimed in this fashion. This book adds personal struggle to a polished pitch, humility to sharp words, and is well worth a read. Review: Ben Palmer

This new era is one where we, supposedly, never have to feel totally alone; logging in online shows us who is around, and we can strike up another conversation that often barely goes beyond 'how are you?' Meanwhile, we have control over what appears, we can filter and refine our lives into a series of moments that showcase us at our best. It's not often about maintaining genuine friendships: it's not really about sharing our life. We just want to show off our creative genius, wit, taste in clothes, sexuality, travel, relationships or children. My newsfeed was recently littered with people's 'ten year anniversary' Facebook videos - ten years of living condensed into 70 seconds of your 5 most liked statuses, a handful of photos, set to some rousing and emotive music. Is this what telling our story has become? Have we limited friendship to some 'likes' of statuses when people get engaged, write something funny, or have their first child? Something that costs us nothing, takes the click of a mouse, and takes none of our time, energy or heart?

Let's not deceive ourselves. This isn't friendship, and it isn't going to sustain us in times of adversity - this is like watching only the medal ceremonies from the Olympics - you get to see the winning moments, but miss out on all the heartache, struggle and drama that have come before.

There is no substitute for real friendship; for 'doing life' alongside people - this is one of the many reasons that finding a church community is so important. Real friendship, and spending time with those people you live your life with, whom you can't help but show the

slightly more real you to, who see you without your make-up, or beat you at squash, who take you for a coffee or a pint at the end of a bad day and who will call you when things are rough.

Friendship is the thing that sustains us in times of adversity. Friendship should be the space where we can most be ourselves, be seen, known and loved. warts and all. While our Facebook profiles may not be the place for sharing our bad times, our times with friends are just that.

Over the last few months I've been on a journey of discovering the incredible power and freedom that comes with sharing your struggles with friends Finding those people that you can be totally honest with is one of the best things about the Christian community, and about genuine friendship. In that place of vulnerability, with everything laid bare, in spite of your mess and your sinfulness, you discover that you are still loved. What is more, when you discover that you are still respected by those who you love, it brings you the most remarkable feelings of freedom. I have discovered that friendship like this, where you stand as you really are before another is unparalleled, and every other relationship pales into insignificance in comparison.

I have many friends with flourishing careers in the armed forces. Recently we were discussing the security clearance process. It's not, as I thought. primarily an interrogation of your friends and family, and snooping through your post and phone records. It's actually an honest conversation, where you

lay before senior staff your whole life, all your significant mistakes, your affairs, your debt, your lies, your one night stands, all your guilt and anything anyone might use to blackmail you with. This is



what gives you greater access in the forces - honesty, and the freedom to know that no- one can hold anything over you. Make your Christian friendships like this, and ensure the devil has no foothold to tell you you're not good enough, or you'll be outed as the fraud you are, or that you're unworthy.

Times of adversity are natural parts of the cycle of life - there are seasons for rejoicing, and seasons of what will feel like wading through treacle, trusting that God has a better and brighter future in store.

The crucial thing is to find people with whom you can be utterly honest. Find yourself a few godly men and women whom you respect and trust, whom you know to be discreet, wise and sensitive, and tell them everything. Lay it all bare. Real friendship will cope, and you will be free from ransom from the Devil as a result.

Let's become people who love one another into the stature to which they're called free from condemnation, free from ransom and free from fear.

#### INTERNATIONAL **FILLING STATIONS**

# VENDÉE CENTRAL LA ROCHE-SUR-YON, FRANCE

hal Joffre. La Roche-sur-Yon. Administrator: Liz Jond liz.jond@wanadoo.fr +033 (0) 2281 55458

# VENDÉE SOUTH LA GRANGE, BOUILDROUX, FRANCE

Every 2nd Wednesday Venue: St.Pierre du Chemin. Venue: St. Hole. Vendée. France. Administrator: Chris Taylor Administrator: Chris Taylor Administrator: St. Taylor

#### **VENDÉE WEST** ST. GILLES CROIX DE VIE, FRANCE

Every 2nd Monday Venue: Espace de Notre Dame de la Vie, Rue Gautté, St. Gilles Croix de Vie, Gautte, St. Gilles Groix de 115, 85800. Vendée. France. Administrator: Roger & Beri Fray fraylesnot@sfr.fr +033 (0)2513 32781

#### **CHEF BOUTONNE**

Venue: The Little Stone Church, 14b Ave de l'Hotel de Ville, 791100 Chef Boutonne, Deux Sevres, Poitou-Charentes. France.

Administrator: Mike Willis michael.willis@sfr.fr +033 (0)549 879816

Several other locatons are at various stages of enquiry about setting up a Filling

Station meeting. Look at the website: thefillingstation.org.uk for the latest updates.

British Filling Station Locations Overleaf

#### + LUGANO

6926 MONTAGNOLA, SWITZERLAND

3rd Thursday Venue: TASIS campus. Via Collina d'Oro 15. 6926 Montagnola. Lugano. Administrator: Richard Davis revrad1@me.com +041 (0)44 422 85 59

#### **VAALWATER**

WATERBERG, LIMPOPO PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA

Meetings as announced Venue: Various locations around Vaalwater, Waterberg, Limpopo. See website. Administrator: Shane Downton horizonranch.shane@yahoo.co.uk +027 (0)734302827

### VILLIERSDORP

WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA

Meetings to start June 2014 To be agreed. strator: Anthea Glibbery toisrael@intekom.co.za +027 (0) 82 9011249



# Summery Lemon

#### Makes 4 x 750ml bottles

- 600ml lemon juice (squeeze this yourself or, if you're frazzled, buy it in a bottle at the supermarket)
- Grated rinds of 6 lemons
- 60g citric acid (from baking section at supermarkets)
- 1 tbsp Epsom salts (also from baking section)
- 1.7 litres of boiling water
- 4 x 750ml bottles, whatever type you have available. No need to sterilise



#### What you do:-

Mix sugar with boiling water and stir to dissolve. Add lemon juice, wash lemons before grating, grate the lemon rinds, add citric acid and Epsom salts. Stir. Leave to stand overnight. Strain in a sieve (if you are a domestic genius, do the straining through a layer of netting).

Finally, bottle. Serve diluted to taste with cold water.

- Fruity tip: orange or grapefruit works just as well too.
- Serve with lots of ice & a mint leaf for that cooling effect

Cook: Sandy Collier of Cape Town



Contact the local meeting Administrators, listed below, for full details of timings, speakers and dates of when Filling Stations occur, or consult the website: the filling station.org.uk All meetings are held in the evenings unless otherwise stated. Meetings are listed by location.

3 CRIEFF

PERTHSHIRE

Every 4th Saturday Kathy Whitaker

annawhitakershepherd@gmail.com 079 60816342

**7 WINDERMERE** 

#### LOSSIEMOUTH

MORAYSHIRE, SCOTLAND

Every 2nd Saturday Elizabeth Brooks elizabeth.brooks@uhi.ac.uk 07772800315

#### 5 STIRLING

STIRLINGSHIRE, SCOTLAND

Every 2nd Tuesday Helen Moody helen.moody85@gmail.com 07766211096

9 FURNESS VALE DERBYSHIRE

Every 3rd Tuesday Gordon & Val Taylor gordontaylor@talktalk.net 01663 741071

#### **13 CRAVEN ARMS**

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**39 CANDOVER VALLEY** 

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HAMPSHIRE

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Every 3rd Thursday Tim Jessieman elainerjessieman@btinternet.com 01743 719578

#### **GREAT OUSE FS**

**CIRENCESTER** 

Every 3rd Wednesday Jill Kingston

kingsjill50@gmail.com 07798830287

BEDFORDSHIRE

Every 3rd Monday Sarah Burles on@gmail.com gofillingstation 07717202001

# 2 TWO RIVERS FS ABERDEENSHIRE

Every 4th Saturday Alan Law alan.law56@btopenworld.com 07500863114

### **6 NORTH EAST FIFE**

FIFE

crw2@st-andrews.ac.uk 079 68439252

**10 THE PEAK FS** 

Every 2nd Saturday Richard Williams-Menlove ThePeakFS@our-house.me 07712049255

#### 11 LEEBOTWOOD

Every 4th Thursday Judith Cobban

SHROPSHIRE

SUFFOLK

1st Wednesday Elaine Jessieman elainerjessieman@btinternet.com 01743 719578

#### **8 WENSLEYDALE**

**4 CALLANDER** 

Every 4th Thursday Robert & Cathy Scott ccc777@btinternet.com 01877 330055

**PERTHSHIRE** 

YORKSHIRE mikehirst3@gmail.com 01969 667841

Every 4th Monday John Pugh-Smith nnfillingstation@gmail.com

### 12 NORFOLK COAST FS

nnfillingstation 07785 716272

16 WYE VALLEY MONMOUTHSHIRE

Every 2nd Friday Claire Wall claire@cwmcarvan.com 01600861814

**20 BREDON HILL FS** 

WORCESTERSHIRE

Every 1st Friday Liz Smith

#### **14 CLUN VALLEY FS** SHROPSHIRE

Every 2nd Friday Brian Angell clunvalleyfs@gmail.com 077 90325007

**VALLEY FS** 

Every 3rd Thursday Sean Drake

WITNEY

johnandannie@gmail.com 07817465996

OXFORDSHIRE

SUFFOLK

# **18 WAVENEY**

SUFFOLK

Every 4th Thursday Robin Alderson robin.alderson@virgin.ne 01728 688255

#### **19 SUFFOLK COASTAL FS**

Every 1st Wednesday Rosalind Paul

rosalind Paul rosalind.paul@yahoo.co.uk 01473 310677

Every 1st Thursday Leonard Payne rev.leonard.payne@gmail.com 077 77636808

**15 NORTH EAST SUFFOLK** 

# smith@shawgreenfarm.co.uk 01386 881336 23 STRATFORD ST.MARY SUFFOLK

24 SOUTH **GLOUCESTERSHIRE** GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Every 4th Wednesday Sara Layen read.myzen.co.uk

#### STANFORD-IN-THE VALE

OXFORDSHIRE

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39(40)41

40 FARNHAM

raphe\_palmer@tiscali.co.uk 07770833772

Every 2nd Friday Raphe Palmer

31 32

(48)

Every 2nd Wednesday Chris Weatherall chris\_mel6467@tiscali.co.uk 07775 564131

15

# 26 ABINGDON OXFORDSHIRE

Every 3rd Thursday Neil Rowe neil.rowe.nsch@gmail.com 0798026212134

#### **27 HENLEY-ON-THAMES**

Every 1st Wednesday Maggie Atkinson ex.atkinson@btinternet.com 07875203409

30 MARLBOROUGH

#### 29 PRISTON MILL

Every 3rd Tuesday Administrator: Nicky King pristonfillingstation3@gmail.com

#### 32 BASINGSTOKE

HAMPSHIRE

Every 4th Wednesday Shirley Felton shirleyfelton1@gmail.com 01256 781492

#### 34 WIVELISCOMBE

SOMERSET

Every 4th Tuesday John Osborne john@choice2.net 07535777809

# 33 WESTWARD-HO!

Every 3rd Wednesday Helen Stokes

hcstokes@gmail.com 01672 516592

Every 3rd Friday Jess Marchbank jesskrc@hotmail.com 07769895853

#### 35 BURNHAM-ON-SEA

SOMERSET

Every 3rd Tuesday Roger Harvey **,** urban.co.uk

sales@villageu 01278 788219

### 36 MIDDLEZOY

41 GODALMING

Every 4th Sunday Keith Powell jill.powell3@googlemail.com 01823 698999

ooglemail.com

# **37 CHEW MAGNA**

Every 4th Thursday Charles Roberts

# 42 THE LIZARD FS CORNWALL

Every 3rd Tuesday Mike Tate miketate@fsmail.net 07789579948

#### 43 FALMOUTH

CORNWALL

Every 2nd Thursday Amanda Gilmer

amanda@gilmer.co.uk 07736 240374

Every 3rd Monday Charles Neate

38 BECKINGTON

#### **44 YELVERTON**

28 LATIMER BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Infrequently – as advertised Administrator: James Ray james.ray@restorehopelatimer.org 01494 765555

31 DOWNLAND FS

Every 2nd Thursday Gilly Hudson thetwiglets@yahoo.com 07544306888

BERKSHIRE

DEVON

Every 4th Friday Diana Wood googlemail.com 01822 854877

42

#### 45 TEIGN FS

davidchattell172@btinternet.com

DEVON

Every 2nd Wednesday David Chattell

Every 2nd Friday Mary & Jim Townsend

#### **46 PURBECK FS**

SURREY

DORSET

Every 2nd Thursday Sheelagh Evans sheelaghevans@talktalk.net

#### **47 NEW FOREST** HAMPSHIRE

SURREY

Every 1st Friday Caroline Chrispin

Every 2nd Monday Roger Lockwood roger.nicky@hotn 079 01846119

#### 48 ISLE OF WIGHT

HAMPSHIRE

Every 2nd Monday Helen Malabar

#### **49 STELLING MINNIS**

KENT

Every 3rd Tuesday Nick & Heather Ratcliffe