

**Charis Life Church**

*'From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven breaks forth—and those breaking forth are pursuing it.'* Matt. 11: 12

As with any church there are periods of time where we steadily move along, and then there are times when increased momentum comes. We are very excited at this time to be a church on the move!

Several opportunities have arisen for us to have greater influence in the community, and we thank God He has given us the resources to take them on. We are greatly blessed at the moment with our ministry to the local children and youth. We have regular input every week into local schools and this has seen our Sunday morning 'Charis Kid's' significantly increase in size.

Our charity shops continue to do very well, and are a testimony of the church moving forward. A member—Jackie—recently became manageress of our new shop in the Meadows, something she said she would never have the confidence to do. Her story begins a few years ago when she volunteered her time to help at the Clifton shop. This led her to come to church to find out what it was all about. Soon after she decided she wanted to know God for herself and made the decision to ask Him into her life. The momentum gathered from there, and after working part-time in the Clifton shop she is now manageress at the Meadows shop, serving God in her daily life.

**Sherwood Forest Community Church**

The testimony of Gordon Blanc, a member of our church:

*The joy of finding that God is not a tyrant came when I was 60. As a protestant brought up in Ireland I had tried very hard for years to be true and faithful and to draw close to Him. But my picture of Him sitting high on his throne, watching and waiting for me to fail, made me give up. I thought I could never be accepted by Him. Then, in March last year, I had a dream, and was told to write down the following:*

*'Here is your freedom. Man has no right of mind-control over you. Do not give up the wonderful gift of freedom of choice that I gave you, I paid too high a price for you to surrender that to man. Beware of odd, exclusive, inward-looking sects, that's not Me, but man controlling. I always want all to be included, anything else is just plain false. Go on, enjoy your life and tell all that I am for freedom.'*

*I realised that God is my loving Father. The effect this had on me was extreme, and I was baptised at SFCC in June Thank you Father.*



**BREAKTHROUGH News**

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE CHURCHES THAT ARE PART OF THE BREAKTHROUGH NETWORK

**Welcome!**

**Breakthrough Network...**

**“Building stronger leaders to build stronger Churches to bring God’s Kingdom”**



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The Breakthrough Network has been experiencing a time of great blessing recently—for which we are incredibly grateful to God. He provides all that we need, not least of which His love and acceptance in His Son Jesus. The gospel is good news!



We continue to believe in our vision—'Building stronger leaders, to build stronger churches, to bring God's Kingdom', and are pleased to host our Breakthrough Conference at the start of this month. We pray you will go away blessed and having gained something new of equipping to be the strong leaders you need to be where ever you are based.



This edition of Breakthrough News contains great testimonies, stories of God's provision and His great orchestrating power, encouragement and future plans. Please continue to pray for all our churches as we press forward together—to bring God's Kingdom.

**The Network**

**Eighteen Churches and Individuals are currently part of the Breakthrough Network.**

- Beacon Christian Centre, Loughborough
- Bethesda Church, South Yorkshire
- Carlton Community Church, Nottingham
- Charis Life Church, Nottingham
- Christian Centre, Nottingham
- Eagles Nest Church, Nottingham
- Emmanuel Christian Centre, Litchfield
- Five Towns Christian Fellowship, West Yorkshire
- Hednesford Pentecostal Church, Staffordshire
- Lifespring Church, New Ollerton, Nottinghamshire
- Louth Christian Fellowship, Lincolnshire
- Sherwood Community Church, Nottinghamshire
- The Haven, Nottingham
- Wellingborough Christian Centre, Northants
- Zion Assembly of God, Chesterfield

Eric Maddison  
 Mark Ritchie, 73rd Trust  
 Mike Bettaney, AoG World Ministry Team

## Five Towns Christian Fellowship

Members of Five Towns Christian Fellowship have been working alongside local community leaders to identify ways to address concerns of people living in our area. There came a request for help in elderly people's gardens, so forty members of the church, plus friends, set out to help.

Duties included clearing pathways, overgrown shrubs and undergrowth, trimming trees and hedges, pruning, weeding and mowing lawns. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and after their hard work were welcomed back to the church centre for a hot lunch. Our elderly members of the community were also invited.

The day was a definite success and more activities on the estate are planned for the near future. Local community leader Margaret Shilloto said, 'The residents want to say a big thank you to all the people who helped. It was great to see people putting faith into action.'



## Wellingborough Church

The Wellingborough Christian Centre is in the process of merging with its three church plants to become one charity. From 1 April 2007 it will be known as Reachout Community Church. Each location will then add the name of their own village; eg, Reachout Community Church Irthlingborough (or Rothwell, Wellingborough etc).

We are also changing our structure, moving from the Model Deed, to Incorporation. Of course this creates a huge amount of work administratively—and just when we think we've thought of everything we seem to think of something else! We believe this is the right, and a worthwhile move however, so we praise God.

## Louth Christian Fellowship

It is great to be able to inform the Network that we have completed purchasing on Cannon St. House in the town centre of Louth. These facilities are going to give us a far greater profile as a church within the town, through significantly additional space and an excellent location.

These premises, once renovated, will host all our local church meetings and ministries. We will also have new opportunities to engage with the community. We are looking to develop a coffee shop combined with a soft play area within the building, with main front access. Cannon St. House is also going to include some of our community projects; such as an education suite and 'Beautiful She' - our work among teenage mums and their children. We have already begun work on the refurbishment of these premises.

## Lifespring Church

John Pettifor visited our church on February 25 as we witnessed Robert Day being 'dedicated' as an elder. It is now almost 2 years since the Dukeries Christian Fellowship and Lifespring Community Church merged to become Lifespring in the Dukeries. John paid tribute to Robert for his role in that journey. It was Robert who took the initiative and offered to lay down his leadership role in order to join with Lifespring.

John encouraged the congregation to submit to Robert's authority. "Submission," he said, "has to do with disagreement, not agreement." Hand in hand with this he urged Robert to govern the church with wisdom and diligence. The church was very encouraged and showed its appreciation to Robert in his new role, and to John for his ministry.

## Emmanuel Christian Centre

We have to share 2 stories under one heading—the ability of God to orchestrate circumstances in order to fulfil dreams for Him. The long term story begins about 10 years ago when Jane, a dentist in our congregation, had a dream that one day she would be doing dental work as a Christian, serving those less fortunate. Then by the engineering of God we are linked with Breakthrough, of which one church has projects in Ghana, and are looking for professional medical people. Jane is thus allowed to fulfil her 10 year dream!

In exchange David Hind is invited to bring his 'In Hindsight' roadshow to our church, which was a great night. During the presentation he shared a picture of the church in Lichfield welcoming many teenagers through its doors over the next 12 months. 8 months later, our youth group has grown by 200%.

It seems what can happen between us through relationship, can release something that will see God at work in powerful ways—that we could never ask for or imagine... which I think I may have read somewhere before... ?



## Zion Assembly of God Church

We are told in Acts that the early Church had the favour of all the people. I am not certain that we are everyone's flavour of the month, but I do know God has given us favour with quite a few people! One of the most significant things for us in 2006 was our centenary celebrations in October. New people have come to our church as a result of this event.

We have been working frequently with a local printer, who has gone out of his way to help us because he likes what we are doing in the church and the community. He was involved in a serious motor cycle accident, and one of the first things he requested was that Zion Church should pray for him.

The new year has started off well and we are believing God for an even greater!

## Christian Centre, Nottingham

We are living in the reality of answered prayer, the challenge of waiting in the gap between promise and fulfilment and the longing for God to come and do only what he can do. January and February have seen 84 people through our Newcomer's Dinners, a growing momentum in our Children's and Youth work and an expectation as we prepare for 8 nights and 7000 seats available during the visit of Craig Marsh in April.

The diversity of culture and the variety of people that form the Christian Centre is an incredible joy. We believe for a year of answered prayer and to constantly say, "The Lord has done great thing for us and we are filled with joy" - Psalm 126: 3.

## Hednesford Pentecostal Church

Two elders and one additional deacon have been appointed. We believe this is a crucial step in the preparation for future growth and development of team ministry. On Sunday 18 we held our first baptismal service in the church. Previously we have had to hire pools or other churches—it is very significant to able to do this in our own building after our extension and renovation has enabled us. Five people were baptised.

Our Secondary School work, which uses the multimedia presentation package 'Evaluate' from Care for Education, is being inundated with requests for presentations. We are having to turn away many due to a shortage of presenters. We are praying and seeking helpers from other churches in the area. On 9, 10 and 11 of March we are holding a mission, with Barry Woodward coming again to our town.