

News from Mark and Sue

Issue 10.2 Autumn/Winter 2004/05



Serving with "YOUTH WITH A MISSION CYMRU/WALES" in Wrexham, North Wales YWAM

An angel of the Lord appeared...and the glory of the Lord shone around. He said "I bring you good news of great joy. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born...He is Christ the Lord" Luke 2, verses 9-11



Roll On, Christmas!

Season's greetings from the Vening's here in Wales! The last six months have been very busy and we are looking forward to things calming down a little over Christmas and the New Year.

We hope and trust that everything is going well with all of our friends too, and invite you take the weight off your feet for a few minutes and catch up with us.



SandCastles on the Beach

Summer Fun

The summer began for us with a week of intensive Welsh language learning in Mold. This is a 'fun' event we put ourselves through twice a year as it gives us an opportunity to learn and practice the language with lots of others.

Normally over 100 people come and are split according to ability. We really enjoyed it and are planning on doing the

A Great Break Over the Summer

It was wonderful to spend some time with friends and family over the summer—including a great time with Mark's Dad in August. He was housing sitting for some friends who had their own country house, swimming pool, lake and grounds! It was like a 5 star hotel, only for free!



Winter school in early January.

Afterwards, we attended the YWAM staff conference in Swanick. We haven't had one for a number of years and it was a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

YWAM England and Wales is now getting on for 300 people and we operate in 26 locations. Lots of people - great fun!

We then got a chance to catch up with friends and family and particularly enjoyed a week with Sue's parents in the Dales and then a few days with Mark's Dad in Kent.

It so happened that Mark's Dad was house sitting (more like Country House sitting) and we got the 5 star treatment with pool, grounds and even a boating lake! Most fun though was simply getting time with friends and grand parents and enjoying a few days together.

Back to Work

Later on in August it was time to focus on the main event for the rest of this year, that is the DTS 2004. Regular readers will recall that YWAM ministers in two primary ways; missionary work to the local community and training. It is this latter function that the DTS - or Discipleship Training School - falls under.

We had 5 staff lined up for the school and God sent 10 students to be part of the DTS. He brought people from Canada, the US, Holland, as well as good old Blighty, to join our American,

DTS 2004

In September, 10 students from the UK and abroad converged on Wrexham for our second Discipleship Training School (DTS).



DTS 2004

We are thrilled with the people God has sent us and are looking forward to hearing their stories from Outreach. One team is going to North Africa and the other to Romania/Albania.

God also provided the place for them to study—a Welsh speaking Church!

We are so happy that God has connected us in this way to new friends.

Hallelujah!



Capel Jerusalem

Australian and British staff - so we ended up being a fairly cosmopolitan bunch!

Accommodation

Last time we ran a DTS (2003) all our accommodation plans changed and, by trusting God for our provision, it came though just 5 days before, it was a real ride of faith!

This time we thought we would see a breakthrough a little earlier, but again it turned to be another full-on faith challenge.

You may have seen some of the emails that were going around during August and September, but to make an long, but interesting story brief, we ended up using a local Welsh speaking church's facility for our DTS.

They were not sure at first, but after
(Continued overleaf)



Summertime Sue

(Continued from overleaf)

some discussion they ended up letting us use their building for a very reasonable rent.

It was quite exciting, as Mark had to complete all the negotiations in Welsh! This was great experience for us and helped develop some new friends in the Welsh speaking church. The terms of reference and agreement for the rental were also in Welsh, although our contact mercifully agreed to put them in English alongside. We were glad as knowing the Welsh for 'Memorandum of Understanding' or 'We the undersigned herein agree' was going to be a challenge for any learner! In any case, we got the key to Capel Jerwsalem a week before - take a look at the panel to see how God provided.

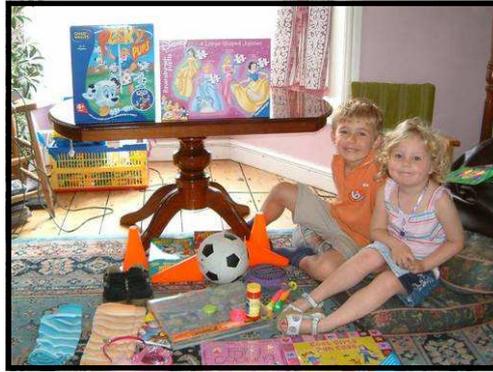
Future Plans

So what about after the DTS? Amazingly, this Christmas makes it two and half years in Wrexham. When we arrived, we knew that God was asking us to spend at least the first couple of years making friends, learning the language and seeing what He was doing in the nation before getting stuck in with any ministry of our own.

Now that we are starting to get into that time frame we are going to spend some time after Christmas thinking and praying about the next season in Wales.

To tell the truth, we have found ourselves a little more busier that we had originally thought (typical), and so we feel it is definitely time to seek God about exactly how to proceed. There are lots of ways we could go - we could start some new ministries, see if God is going to release a permanent base to YWAM, or even move further on and into Wales. Keep us in prayer over this time!

In fact, if there are those out there that may have some thoughts for us, or the Lord speaks to you, please do get in touch - we would love to hear from you.



Two very lucky birthday children

Remember - do come and see us if you can, we love having guests and it would be fabulous to see any of you.

God bless and see you all soon.

*Hope you enjoyed our update from Wales.
Have a wonderful Christmas and may you know
Love from Mark, Sue, Zaak & Tasha xxxxx*

The Kiddies!

The children continue to grow up too fast. This year Zaak has



learned to really ride his bike without stabilisers and on his birthday got a new one. Lucky!

Tasha, totally on her own volition, loves pink, princesses and Barbie dolls.



She got a Barbie wardrobe for her birthday, and can honestly spend a whole morning getting everything out and putting everything back in again. Phew!

Want to know what to **Pray**? Thank you for praying for us - it means a great deal

- As you will have gathered from the main text, we want to spend some time over Christmas and the early part of the New Year checking with the Lord to be sure about how we go on from where we are now. Many of us will periodically seek God about our lives and direction, and we sense this is one of those seasons for us. Please pray for us, that we would clearly hear God's leading regarding the exciting development of our work.
- Welsh is now starting to become part of our day to day life. Sue continues her 2 lessons a week and Mark now has many friends that only speak in Welsh to him - great! The kids are also doing fabulously at their Welsh only schools. That being said, getting to full grips with any language remains a challenge. We are constantly amazed at how many learning curves there are to a new language & culture. Prayer most welcome!
- Please pray for our health recently. Colds, coughs and sickness have been affecting us and the children. It would be lovely to know that our friends are praying for good health and lots of energy. Thank you!

Want to get in touch with us?



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A Very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year
to all our friends and family!

